BERSERK

BERSERK BY KENTARO MIURA

BERSERK © Kentaro Miura / Hakusensha, Inc.

BERSERK BY KENTARO MIURA

BERSERK © Kentaro Miura / Hakusensha, Inc.

BERSERK

24

三浦建太郎 **KENTARO MIURA**

ベルセルク

BERSERK ㉔

BY
KENTARO
MIURA
三浦建太郎

TRANSLATION
DUANE JOHNSON
LETTERING AND RETOUCH
REPLIBOOKS

®
DARK
HORSE
MANGA

PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER
MIKE RICHARDSON

US EDITORS
CHRIS WARNER
FRED LUI

COLLECTION DESIGNER
DAVID NESTELLE

English-language version produced by
DARK HORSE COMICS and DIGITAL MANGA PUBLISHING.

BERSERK vol. 24 by KENTARO MIURA

© 2002 by Kentaro Miura. All rights reserved. First published in Japan in 2002 by HAKUSENSHA, INC., Tokyo. English-language translation rights in the United States of America and Canada arranged with HAKUSENSHA, INC., Tokyo, through TOHAN CORPORATION, Tokyo. English-language translation © 2008 by Dark Horse Comics, Inc. All other material © 2008 by Dark Horse Comics, Inc. Dark Horse Manga™ is a trademark of Dark Horse Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without the express written permission of the copyright holders. Names, characters, places, and incidents featured in this publication either are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events, institutions, or locales, without satiric intent, is coincidental. All rights reserved.

Dark Horse Manga
A division of Dark Horse Comics, Inc.
10956 SE Main Street
Milwaukie OR 97222

DarkHorse.com

To find a comics shop in your area, call the Comic
Shop Locator Service toll-free at 1-888-266-4226

First edition: August 2008

ISBN 978-1-59307-865-2

10 9 8 7 6 5 4
Printed in the United States of America

NEIL HANKERSON EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT • **TOM WEDDLE** CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER • **RANDY STRADLEY** VICE PRESIDENT OF PUBLISHING • **MICHAEL MARTENS** VICE PRESIDENT OF BOOK TRADE SALES • **MATT PARKINSON** VICE PRESIDENT OF MARKETING • **DAVID SCROGGY** VICE PRESIDENT OF PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT • **DALE LaFOUNTAIN** VICE PRESIDENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY • **CARA NIECE** VICE PRESIDENT OF PRODUCTION AND SCHEDULING • **NICK McWHORTER** VICE PRESIDENT OF MEDIA LICENSING • **KEN LIZZI** GENERAL COUNSEL • **DAVE MARSHALL** EDITOR IN CHIEF • **DAVEY ESTRADA** EDITORIAL DIRECTOR • **SCOTT ALLIE** EXECUTIVE SENIOR EDITOR • **CHRIS WARNER** SENIOR BOOKS EDITOR • **CARY GRAZZINI** DIRECTOR OF SPECIALTY PROJECTS • **LIA RIBACCHI** ART DIRECTOR • **VANESSA TODD** DIRECTOR OF PRINT PURCHASING • **MATT DRYER** DIRECTOR OF DIGITAL ART AND PREPRESS • **MARK BERNARDI** DIRECTOR OF DIGITAL PUBLISHING • **SARAH ROBERTSON** DIRECTOR OF PRODUCT SALES • **MICHAEL GOMBOS** DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL PUBLISHING AND LICENSING

BERSERK

ベルセルク㉔

三浦建太郎

ベルセルク ㉔

CONTENTS

FALCON OF THE MILLENNIUM EMPIRE ARC
THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER

TROLLS 5

THE WITCH 27

MANSION OF THE SPIRIT TREE, PART 1 45

MANSION OF THE SPIRIT TREE, PART 2 65

THE ASTRAL WORLD 83

MAGIC STONE 103

ELEMENTALS 123

ENOCH VILLAGE 145

AMBITION AND REFLECTION 167

TROLL RAID 187

獣鬼（トロール）

FALCON OF THE MILLENNIUM EMPIRE ARC—THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER

TROLLS

食糧調達班
HEY THERE!
JUST YOU WAIT, THIEF!!
パカラ パカラ
HE'S CATCHIN' UP.
CRAP! THAT OLD ASS'S FASTER THAN I THOUGHT!
HNN!
さっ
YOU SURE COST ME TIME.
バラ バラ
モヒヒン

*FX: JUMP

*banner: FOOD PROCUREMENT SQUAD

*FX: CLOPPA CLOPPA

*FX: MHRRRN

*FX: SCATTER

*FX: SPROING

*WHOCK

*SHONK SHONK SHONK
しゃく しゃく しゃく
WHAT THE BLAZES IS THIS WORLD COMING TO? A KID LIKE *YOU*, A BANDIT?
I CAN'T EVEN DO BUSINESS PEACEFULLY.
HERE.
ポイ
*FX: TOSS
*FX: PAP
パシ
MISTER…
I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE, A KID LIKE YOU MAKIN' IT ON HIS OWN.
JUST KEEP QUIET AND TAKE IT.
MISTER…
*HNG…
ぐ…
MISHH-TERRR!
HNNN HNNN
*GRAB
…
DON'T LET IT GET YOU DOWN, SONNY.
ISI--
..DROP!!
*HYAH
せいっ!
*GEFF
ゲフッ
*WHUMP
グシャッ

HAND 'EM *ALL* OVER, STINGY BASTARD. GROWING BOYS NEED NOURISHMENT.
YA BULL-HEADED...
*TWITCH TWITCH
ビク。ビク。
YOU ROTTEN SCOUNDRELLL!
*BLORP *BLORP
ドク ドク
*FLINCH
ビクッ
*ZHA
ザッ
*HNGAHHHH
うがあああ
YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS, YOU LITTLE BRAAAAT!!
I'LL TIE YOU UP AND TOSS YOU IN THE RIVER!!
*FX: EEHRRNN CHOMP CHOMP
FISHIN', *HUH?* NO THANKS.

AHHH, SHIT! HOW'M I GONNA LAND A HIT ON GUTS?
MY GLOVES'RE WORN AND MY JOINTS ACHE.
THAT'LL BE TOUGH WITH YOUR SKILLS AND HIM BEIN' NEARLY A MONSTER AND ALL.
V'YOU TRIED THROWIN' STONES? LIKE BEFORE?
IT'S MEANINGLESS IF IT AIN'T SWORDPLAY!
*FX: SHNK SHNK
SEI!
SEI!
UR'YA!
*FX: WHOP
*FX: WHIP
YEAH, WELL ...
BUT WHEN IT COMES TO STONES, YOU REALLY ARE GOOD.
*FX: FLAP FLAP
*FX: COOO
I'VE SURVIVED 'CAUSE OF THESE AND MY WITS.
AND YOUR IMPUDENCE AND DEPRAVITY ...
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN STAND UP TO AN ADULT IN A FAIR FIGHT.
TWO-HANDED THROWIN'. NOW THAT'S SKILL.
GOT SOME MEAT!
BIG HAUL TODAY.

……
グッ
ザアアアアアア
URAHHH!
ガッ
*KLAK
ガッ
*KLAK
ガッ
*KLAK
WHOA.

*FX: CLENCH

*FX: ZHAAAAAH

*VNN
*FLAPA
ザッ
OH, MY...
*DENK
ぺ
ん

ACTUALLY, NO. YOU WERE *REALLY* ON A ROLL THERE.
R... REALLY?
SON OF A BITCH! I KNEW IT!
AN ELF'S WORK IS NEVER DONE.
WIELDING WITH BOTH HANDS SO YOU CAN FEINT WAS ALSO A GOOD IDEA.
USE YOUR SMALL SIZE TO YOUR ADVANTAGE AND ATTACK FROM BELOW, 'CAUSE MOST FIGHTERS DON'T EXPECT LOW BLOWS.
BUT IF YOU ONLY ATTACK FROM BELOW, YOUR ENEMIES'LL GET USED TO IT. YOU NEED A PLAN THEY CAN'T SEE THROUGH.
UH-HUH...
YOU'D BEST LAND YOUR LAST STRIKE WHERE YOU CAN SEE GARMENTS. IT'D BE IMPOSSIBLE TO PENETRATE ARMOR WITH *YOUR* STRENGTH.
......
HEY.
YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
ABOUT WHAT?

AIN'T TRAININ' ABOUT PRACTICIN' BASICS FOR A LONG TIME BEFORE LEARNIN' TECHNIQUES AND STUFF?
YOU SURE ABOUT A NOVICE LIKE *ME* LEARNIN' THESE KINDS OF IMPROVISED TACTICS?
THEN HOW 'BOUT THE TRADITIONAL SCHOOL OF ELF DIMENSION STYLE?
AREN'T YOU LAYIN' THE GROUNDWORK EVERY DAY?
YEAH, BUT...!
FOR STARTERS, YOU WON'T GET ANYWHERE IMITATIN' ME, RIGHT?
EVERYTHING ABOUT US IS DIFFERENT, INCLUDING FIGHTING STYLES.
....
OR DO YOU PLAN TO WAIT AND TRAIN FOR DECADES TO BECOME SOME MASTER BEFORE GOIN' OUT TO THE BATTLEFIELD?
*TMP
*TMP
TALK ABOUT PATIENT.
Y...
YOU BET YOUR ASS I DON'T!!
IN THAT CASE...
...ALL YOU CAN DO IS WORK WITH WHAT YOU'VE CURRENTLY GOT.

BESIDES, A BATTLEFIELD'S DIFFERENT FROM EXHIBITION GAMES.
YOU DON'T JUST HAVE ONE OPPONENT, AND THERE'S ARROWS AND CANNONBALLS FLYIN' AROUND. YOU CAN'T SURVIVE ONLY ON SWORD SKILLS. THAT SAID, IT AIN'T UNCOMMON FOR SOME HALF-ASSED MASTER TO GET SWARMED AND KILLED BY SOME GANG WANTIN' TO GET FAMOUS.
THEN, HOW DO YOU...
I TOLD YOU ALREADY. STRAIN WHAT FEW WITS YOU HAVE AND THINK FOR YOURSELF.
ISN'T THAT...
...HOW YOU'VE MADE IT THIS FAR?
....
THAT WAS COOOOLD.
ON THAT NOTE, ELF DIMENSION STYLE IS ONE OF FORCE, MAN TO MAN...
RATHER KIND OF YOU.
WOULD YOU MIND JOINING ME IN GATHERING FIREWOOD?
......
FEH!

ザァア・ア。。ア・アア。。。
ISIDRO, STOP THIS!
YOU AREN'T READY YET...!
IF YOU WON'T DO THINGS WHEN YOU CAN...
...YOU WON'T EVER DO 'EM!
FAREWELLLL!
THINKIN' ABOUT IT, MAYBE I'VE BEEN...
...ON A BATTLEFIELD SINCE THE TIME I RAN OUT ON THE VILLAGE.
IT WAS CARELESS OF ME TO RELY ON OTHERS!
I'LL BE THE ONE WHO USES THEM!!

*FX: ZHAAAAAAH

GO ON, RELY. AS YOUR MASTER, I'LL SPOIL YOU PLENTY.
THERE'S NO NEED TO BE SO OBSTINATE...
COME, LEAP INTO THESE ARMS, MY SON.
QUIT READIN' PEOPLES' MONOLOGUES!
*FX: PISSED
A DISCIPLE HAS NO PRIVACY!
HOW PRETENTIOUS FOR A GREENHORN.
'DRO.
IN THE FIRST PLACE, JUST WHATTA YOU PLAN TO DO ONCE YOU LEARN THE SWORD FROM ME? GOVERNMENT SERVICE OR SOMETHIN'?
I...I LOST...?
HEH! WHAT A LAUGH.
*SPLURT SPLURT
ME IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE? A COURT SERVANT? NO THANKS!
THEN WHY...?
LISTEN UP! WHAT I'M AFTER AIN'T AS PETTY AS COURT SERVICE...
...OR RISIN' UP IN SOCIETY!! WHAT I'M AFTER IS...
...BEIN' THE...
'DRO'S (CURRENT) PLAN
ULTIMATE
*DAZZLE
...ULTIMATE SWORDSMAN!!!
*YEAHH!

WHAT WAS THAT IFFY WRY SMILE FOR?!
EH, IT MIGHT WORK... IT'S SIMPLE-MINDED...
I REALLY DON'T THINK I COULD COME TO LIKE HANDLING MEAT. IT'S DISGUSTING.
?
ピクッ

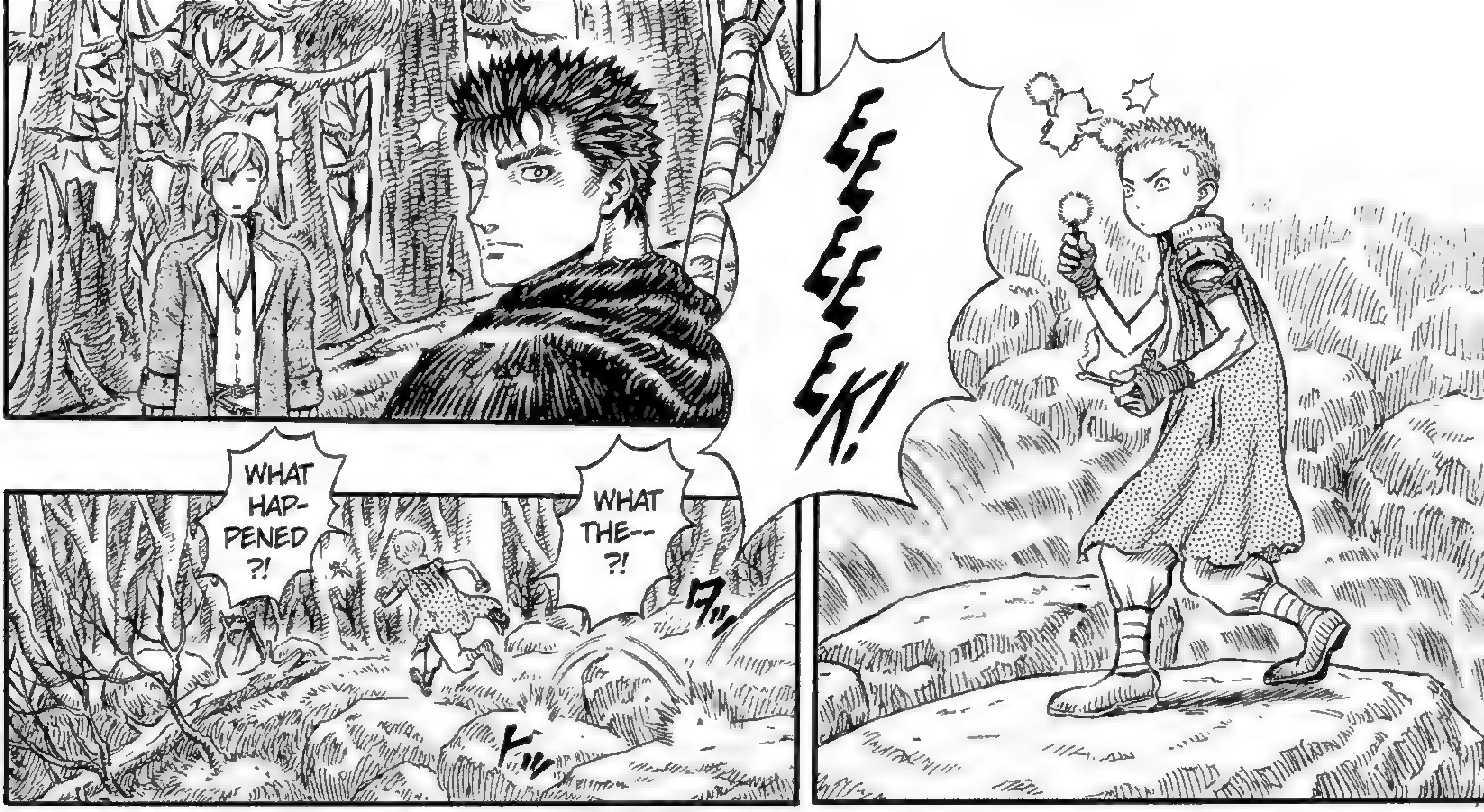
*FX: WHEWWW

*FX: TWITCH

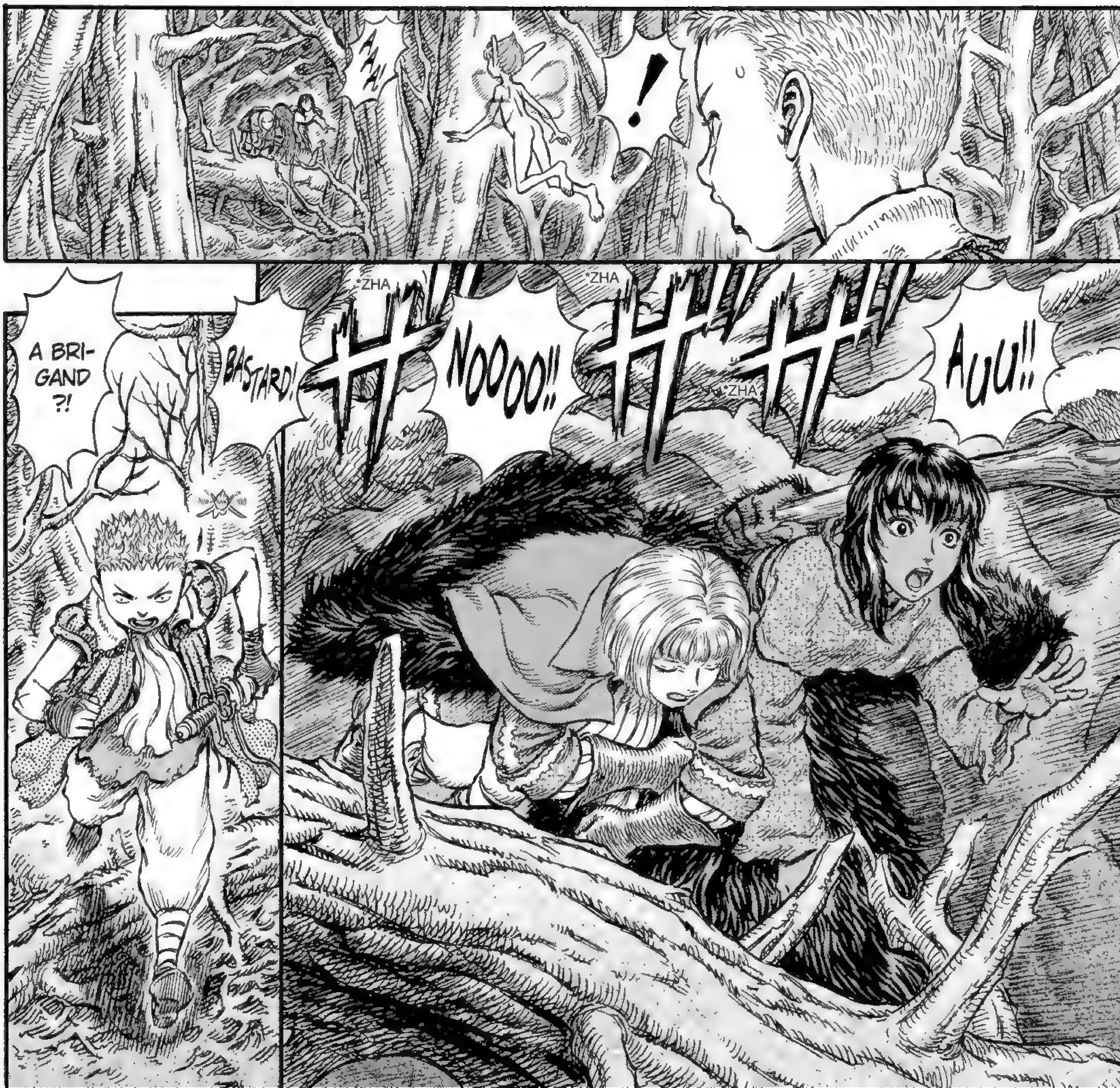
UH OH. THESE ARE RATHER DAMP.
LET'S GET STARTED.
*FX: HYNN
ヒュ
....
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
DON'T PLAY DUMB.
YOU GOT US ALONE SO YOU COULD SETTLE THE SCORE, RIGHT?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
I MERELY THOUGHT I WOULD DEEPEN MY FRIENDSHIP WITH YOU... THAT I WOULD BE PERFECTLY FRANK.
MY, MY, WHAT A HOTHEADED FELLOW.
SUDDENLY YOU'RE SENILE...
IF YOU'RE NOT IN THE MOOD, I'M LEAVIN'.
WHAA?
*SPIP
ピ
*PLAP

TO BE *PERFECTLY* FRANK...
...I AM THINKING HOW NICE IT WOULD BE IF YOU *DIED.*
HEH!
THERE'S THAT FACE AGAIN, FINALLY.
*FX: POK
BY GOING ALONG WITH YOU, LADY FARNESE IS EXPOSED TO DANGER.
IF I COULD, I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE HER ABANDON THIS RECKLESS JOURNEY AT ONCE.
HOWEVER...
...THIS IS WHAT SHE HERSELF WISHES.
THAT FACE, LIKE AN INFANT THAT'S CRIED ITS EYES OUT...
IT'S NOT LIKE LADY FARNESE AT ALL...
I DO NOT KNOW THAT DEFENSELESS SIDE OF HER.

YOU CHANGED HER.
....
BUT, ALAS, I SET ASIDE MY PERSONAL FEELINGS.
SO LONG AS LADY FARNESE CONTINUES THIS JOURNEY, AS HER ATTENDANT I WILL DO MY BEST TO GET ALONG WITH YOU.
HOWEVER...
...IF THIS JOURNEY LEADS TO SOMETHING SUCH AS HER *DEMISE*...
...THAT IS WHEN, AS YOU WISH, I SHALL OPPOSE YOU AS AN INDIVIDUAL.
I DO HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND.
I'LL KEEP IT IN MIND.
ODD-BALL.


EEEEEK!
WHAT THE--?!
WHAT HAPPENED?!
ダッ
ドッ

*FX: TAP TMP


!
AAA!
AUU!!
*ZHA
ザザザザ
*ZHA
NOOOO!!
*ZHA
ザザ
BASTARD!
A BRIGAND?!

HEY, YOU!!
JUST YOU WAIT!!
KIDNAP-PIN' THEM RIGHT IN FRONT 'A ME, YA CREEP?!
A THIEF'S PRIDE DOESN'T FORGIVE!
*SNATCH
URAH!
*FX: VSSH
*WHOCK
YEAH!
YOU ALL RIGHT?!
OOOOO
*GROH
THIS FEELING?!
THAT'S...
...NOT HUMAN!
WHAT?

SSSSSS
ハヒヒヒヒ・・

!GHH
WHOA!
WHAT IS THAT THING...?!
BUT IT AIN'T HUMANS UP THERE.
IT'S TROLLS.
YOU MEAN...
...THAT'S ...
...A T-TROLL ?!
*NGEEE
ギギギ
*SQUEEZE
ギュッ
New species of ape.
UGHH, GROSS.
*JAK
シャキ

SHFF
GOFF GOFF
H- HERE IT COMES, ISIDRO. STONES, STONES!
WE SHOULD HURRY AND GET AWAY...!!
KH...
*FX: SNATCH
NO, WAIT.
JUST ONE ENEMY.
WHEN YOU LOOK CLOSE, IT'S NOT BUILT ALL THAT BIG...
RIGHT!
WHA- HEY?!
I'LL TAKE IT !!!

UH-OH. NOW THEY'RE GONNA DIE.
HEYYY ...
WHATTA WE DO?

FALCON OF THE MILLENNIUM EMPIRE ARC
THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER

THE WITCH

魔女

BERSERK

ギュ
*GRIP
*FX: HFFF HFFF
YA UGLY MON-KEY!
LET'S DO THIS!!
AH ...
I'M NOT...
... AFRAAAID.
*BA
*GAJINNG
UOH!
OH!
OH!

*WHOM
*FX: GYANNNG
ISIDRO!
*ARR ARR
*FX: CRACK!
DAHH!!
WHAT THE HELL?!
IT AIN'T NEARLY AS SLOW AS IT LOOKS!!

*SCOOT
ザッ
ドゴッ
*WRAK
…!
*FX: THNK
ガキッ
*FX: WHAP
バタッ
BEHH!
WAH, STUPID …!!
I…
I'M DEA--

*HYNN
!
?!
!
BERRIES ...?
DON'T MOVE.

*FX: PSH

*FX: GYAW!

*FX: SPRING

WH-WHAT THE--?!
WHAT ...?
IS THAT...?!

THERE IS DANGER.
BE QUIET.
UGH ...
AGH ...
TAKE A LOOK AROUND.
!

WH- WHEN DID THEY...?
TROLLS RARELY HUNT ALONE.
THEY ARE SURE TO FORM PACKS.
ALL OF YOU, COME HERE.
AH, YES, YES!
...
CROUCH DOWN, PLEASE.
スル…
?!
ヒュ

*FX: SSSF

*FX: HYNN

サラ
*SSS
LISTEN CLOSELY.
WHATEVER HAPPENS ...
キュッ
*CHULP
...YOU MUST NOT EXIT OR DISTURB THIS CIRCLE.
トッ
*TMP
コト
*TNK
WH- WHAT IS THIS?
IT'S MAGIC!
THIS...
...IS A MAGIC RITUAL!
!
MAGIC ...?!
THEN DOES THAT MEAN...?!

THAAAT'S RIGHT!
THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS.
SHE'S A *WITCH!*
ヒョイ。
*ZHMP
!
AN ELF!!
ONE A' ME! WOWEE!
HMHM...
WHAT SHE'S CHANTIN' RIGHT NOW IS A SPELL TO PROTECT ALL YOU FROM THE SHAGGIES...
...SO YOU BETTER SHUSH AND NOT BOTHER HER, IF YOU DON'T WANNA DIE. ♡
YODO HEGH VAU HEGH.
ス。
*SWSS
ス。
*SWSS
WHOA! WHAT'S HIS DEAL?!
I'VE MISSED YAAA! ♡
HE SHRUNK!
ADONAI TSABAUT.
EGHE-HYEH.
ARGRAH.

*GEH GEH
*GWEH
*GYAH
*GYAH
TH-THEY'RE GONNA COME S-SWARMIN'!!
*FX: VMM VMM
H-HEY!
*GRAHH
*LUNGE
AGHHHH!
IGH!
*ZZZT

WHAT... WAS THAT LIGHT...?!
LIKE I SAID, MAGIC.
ギャア
ギャア
*FX: NGA NGA
WHIFF
スウ..
*SSSS
ヒュン
*HYNNN
ヒュン
*HYNNN
ヒュン
*HYNNN

*NRAHH
キャア!
*NRAHH
ギャア!
*FX: ZHA ZHA ZHA
ザザザ ザ…
…
SN… SHAAFE
ふひゃ
*WHEWWW
YOU OWE US ONE.
ホホホ
*HO HO HO
WOW …!!
WHAT'S GOIN' ON…?!
*BATHUMP
ドクン!
A WITCH…
*BATHUMP
ドクン!
I USED HAIR AS A CATALYST TO PROJECT THE POWER OF FIRE ELEMENTALS ALONG THE FLOW OF OD.
AFTER ALL, TO THOSE NOT OF THIS WORLD, IT IS THE SAME AS BEING SHOT WITH FIRE ARROWS.
OD?
ELEMENTA?
オドオド
*(nervous)
DON'T BOTHER TELLIN' THESE GUYS STUFF LIKE THAT.

PLEASE HEED SOME ADVICE.
IT WOULD BE BEST IF YOU TOOK YOUR LEAVE OF THIS REGION QUICKLY.
BEGGING YOUR PARDON...
N-NO NEED TO WORRY.
WE MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT WE'RE PRETTY USED TO MONSTERS LIKE THOSE.
...BUT BASED ON WHAT I SAW...
...THE NEXT TIME, YOUR SWORD SKILLS WILL COST YOU YOUR LIFE.
YOU GOT SCHOOLED, RIGHT WHERE IT HURTS.
WHAAAT ....?!
I MUST GO.
H-HEY, WAIT. OLD HAG!!
A LITTLE LEARNIN'S A DANGEROUS THING
*FX: GLOMP
*FX: SWIP
*FX: WOOP

WH- WHAT THE...?!
THOSE AREN'T AN OLD HAG'S!!
FOR THAT MATTER, THEY'RE HARDLY THERE!
OHHH, NOW YOU DONE IT.
...
...
*GROPE

A KID...?!
*BONK
HEY, WHAT GIVES?!
LADY FARNESE!!
WHAT HAPPENED?
WHAT IS HE DOING?
WELL...
ウキキッ
*OOK OOK OOK
OOGA OOGA! HAVE AN ACORN, MONKICHI.

....
THEY'RE A BUNCH'A DOLTS.
EVEN THOUGH I DIDN'T **FORMULATE** WITH GROUP MAGIC, THEY SAW THE PENTAGRAM.
HAS THIS REGION BEEN INVADED BY THE OTHER LAYER TO SUCH AN EXTENT?
*FX: OOGA OOGA
AND THAT GIRL...
SHALL WE LEAVE HIM BE? HE SEEMS TO ENJOY THIS.
THAT MAN, TOO...
WHO ARE...
...THOSE TWO?
IT'S LIKE...
...THEY'RE ATTRACTING DISTORTION.

SON'VA BITCH! OOK!
ウキャ
THAT DAMN WITCH KID! OOK!
GOOD JOB, FOR YOU.
YES. THANKS TO YOU, OUR TWO WOMEN WERE SAFE.
I AIN'T SATISFIED! OOK!
WHEN'LL I GO BACK TO NORMAL?! OOK!
THANKS A LOT.
OOK! QUIT THAT! YOU TELLIN' ME THAT MAKES ME FEEL ALL CREEPY! OOK!
WELL...
...IN THE END, YOU WERE SAVED BY WITCH GIRL, TOO, MONKICHI.
I MEAN IT.
ムキィ!!
WHO'S A MON-KICHI?! OOK!
YOU WITH YOUR SPEECH IMPEDI-MENT!

*FX: OOK

*FX: EEEE!

I'D RATHER...
...NOTHING LIKE THAT HAPPEN AGAIN.
*SCOOT
?
SHE SEEMS TO HAVE COMPLETELY TAKEN TO LADY FARNESE.
W... WELL, PERHAPS ...

SOMEONE OTHER THAN ME...
OOGA OOGA
OOGA OOGA
...WILL SAVE YOU.
CAN'T STOP MYSELF!
ウキャ!
FOR NOW, THAT'S FINE.
DON'T PLAY WITH ME!
I WOULD...
...ONLY HURT YOU.

*FX OOKEE!

STILL... TROLLS AND A WITCH?
WHAT? YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME?
OH, IT'S GONE.
NO, I DID NOT MEAN THAT.
I HAVE SEEN ENOUGH GHOSTS AND MONSTERS RECENTLY TO BE SICK OF THEM.
I WAS JUST THINKING THAT, COMPARED TO THOSE, THEY SEEM A BIT FAIRY TALE-ISH.
YEAH, COME TO THINK OF IT.
WHO'RE *YOU* TO TALK?
TROLLS AND A WITCH.
COULD THERE BE AN APOSTLE?
HM?
WHAT THE...?

HERE, HOLD STILL.
WE'RE NOT GONNA EATCHA.
TH-THANK YOU VERY MUCH. YOU SAVED ME.
WHAT IN THE WORLD HAPPENED?
WE WERE ATTACKED BY TROLLS.
THERE WERE FIVE OTHERS WITH ME, BUT THEY ALL...
THE TROLLS, *HUH...?*
ARE YOU FROM AROUND HERE, SIR?
MY VILLAGE IS ABOUT AN HOUR FROM HERE.
YOU WILL NEVER MAKE IT BACK ALONE WITH THOSE INJURIES.
IS THERE ANY WAY WE CAN SEE HIM THERE?
FINE BY ME.
THE SUN'S STILL HIGH, ANYWAY.
I APOLOGIZE, BUT I CANNOT RETURN HOME JUST YET...
THERE IS SOMEWHERE I ABSOLUTELY MUST GO FIRST.
?
I AM FROM ***ENOCH VILLAGE.*** I'M ***MORGAN.***
AS TRAVELERS, YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW THIS...
...BUT THIS AREA HAS FOR A LONG TIME HELD MANY LEGENDS OF FAIRIES, WITCHES, AND THE LIKE.

ALTHOUGH THAT IS THE REALM OF FABLE AND FOLKLORE...
...THERE WERE SOME WHO SAID THEY HAD ACTUALLY SEEN THEM. BUT THERE HAD BEEN NO HARD PROOF, AND EVEN AMONG NATIVES THERE WERE NOT MANY WHO BELIEVED THE LEGENDS THROUGH AND THROUGH...
...UNTIL THAT CURSED NIGHT CAME.
CURSED NIGHT ?
THE FIRST NIGHT OF WINTER...
...A PACK OF TROLLS ATTACKED THE VILLAGE.
JUST LIKE THEY HAD FALLEN OUT OF A TALE...
...THEY EMERGED FROM THE DARKNESS.
YES, EVER SINCE THAT NIGHT IT'S LIKE THE WHOLE WORLD HAS CHANGED.
AS IF ALL THAT HAD BEEN BEFORE WAS A LIE...
......
NOT ONLY DO THEY RUIN THE FIELDS AND STEAL LIVESTOCK...
THEY EVEN CARRY OFF OUR WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

BECAUSE OF THE WAR WITH THE KUSHAN, HEAVY TAXES ARE IMPOSED ON THE PEOPLE. ENOCH VILLAGE WAS POOR TO BEGIN WITH, AND IT WILL BE ALL WE CAN DO NOT TO STARVE TO DEATH THIS WINTER!
NOW WE ARE RAIDED BY CREATURES OF LEGEND... IT IS JUST A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE VILLAGE IS WIPED OUT!
THEN DO YOU PLAN TO APPEAL DIRECTLY TO YOUR LORD?
OUR LORD HAS BEEN DISPATCHED TO VRITANNIS, AND THE CASTLE IS NOW EMPTY.
EVEN IF WE WERE TO TELL HIM...
...WOULD HE EVER SEND SOLDIERS FOR SUCH NONSENSE LIKE TROLLS?!
THEN WHAT'LL YOU DO?
A LEGEND FOR A LEGEND...
WE THOUGHT WE WOULD REQUEST HELP FROM A WITCH.
A WITCH.
A WITCH ...?!

....
IT IS SAID THAT DEEP IN THIS FOREST LIVES A WITCH IN HER MANSION.
ONLY THOSE THE MISTRESS OF THE MANSION WILLS MAY REACH THAT PLACE...
IN ANY CASE, THE VILLAGERS ARE TOO AFRAID TO GO NEAR...
...BUT OF OLD THERE SOMETIMES HAVE BEEN CHILDREN WHO CLAIMED THEY SAW IT.
WE ALREADY SEARCHED THE FOREST FOR FIVE DAYS BUT COULD NOT FIND ANYTHING LIKE THAT...
EVENTUALLY WE WERE UNLUCKY ENOUGH TO FIND TROLLS ...
SO THERE'S A WITCH'S SPELL CAST ON THIS FOREST?
THEN WOULDN'T IT BE A WASTE OF TIME NO MATTER HOW LONG YOU SEARCHED?
スゥ...

*FX. WSSS

SOME-ONE'S PASSED THROUGH THE BARRIER?!
IMPOSSIBLE!!
ELEMENTALS!
モ゛オオオ・オ・
MOGGHH

WHAT'S THIS?
THIS OLD FAMILIAR FEELING ...
WH- WHAT THE HELL ...?!
!

OHHH WOW!
TREES GROWIN' OUT OF A HOUSE!
WAIT, IS THE *HOUSE* GROWIN' OUT OF THE *TREES*?
WILD. THIS IS JUST LIKE A FAIRY TALE!
WHA ...?
!!!
SOME ...
... SPARKLY THINGS?
HEY, HEY, WE FOUND IT ALREADY, MISTER.
OHH ...
IT REALLY WASN'T A DREAM ...
EH?
DID I NOT SAY SOME CHILDREN SAW THIS MANSION LONG AGO?
ONE OF THOSE CHILDREN WAS *ME*.
NO ONE BELIEVED ME, AND SO MANY YEARS PASSED THAT EVEN I CAME TO THINK IT WAS A DREAM.
THAT WITCH KID'S PROBABLY HERE, TOO...
NOW WHAT KINDA PAYBACK SHOULD I GET?!
YOU'LL JUST GET TURNED INTO MONKICHI AGAIN.
*WHAP

WHAT'S THE MATTER?
Ooo
WHAT'S THIS WEIRD FEELING?
DEAD SPIRITS?! NO.
!
ISIDRO!
GET AWAY FROM THAT!!
OH, THIS...
HUHN?
ドン
BEH!
*FX: WHUMP
OWW!
THE HELL'S THIS STUPID-LOOKIN' STONE STATUE?
ガッ!
*WHACK

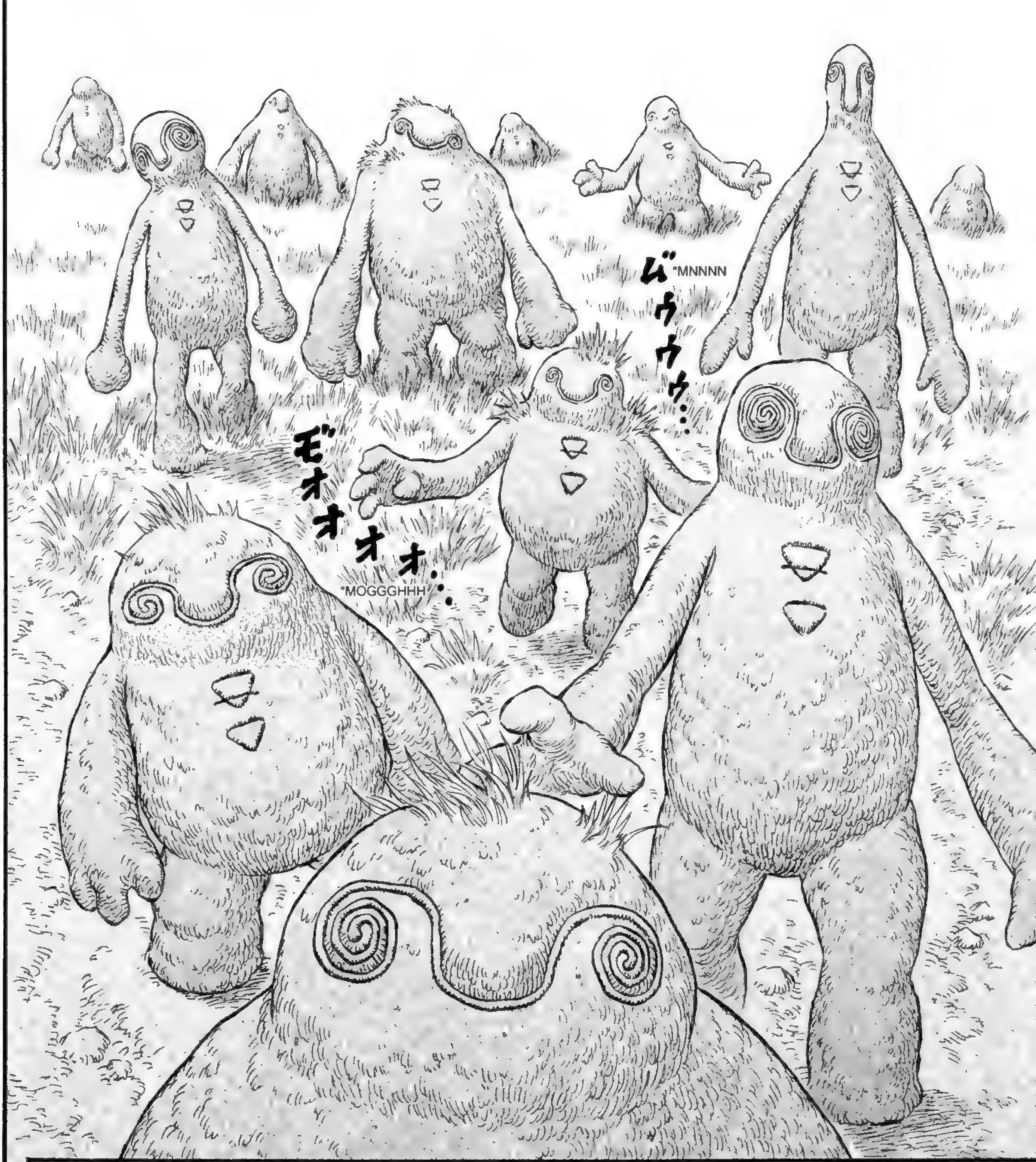
THIS ISN'T A STONE STATUE.
IT'S CALLED A GOLEM.
IT'S GOT AN AFRO! OH, THAT'S FUNNY, WITCH!
DA HA HA HA...!
IT'S A MUD PUPPET...
...USED AS A HELPER OR HOUSE GUARD BY WITCHES.
GUAR...
ズズ
*ZSH
*WHOOM
DAAAAAAA!

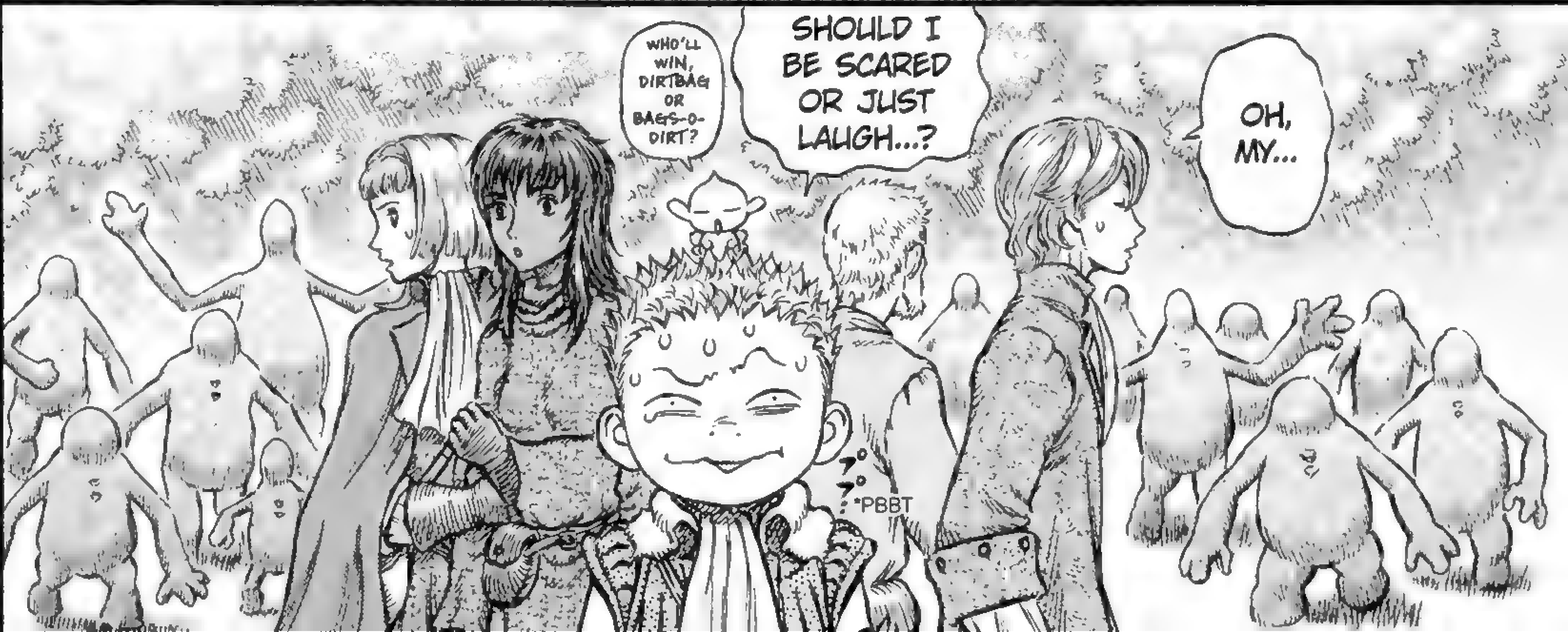
N-NO WAY!
NICE AFRO!
グォォ。。
*FX WHOMM
*SHONK

オォ..オ..
*OHHH
*SHOM
*SLICE
Y... YEAH!...
*ZNNN
*MOGGGH
モォオ..オォ..
*ZHA
*CHFFF

W-WAIT, PLEASE! LISTEN TO...!!
MR. MORGAN!!
THESE THINGS WON'T LISTEN TO TALK!!
KEEP BACK, MISTER!!
!
*FX: ZOMMM
FX: ZMMM
*ZHOP
GEH! THEY GREW BACK!
DEAD SPIRITS ...? APOSTLE MINIONS ?!
NO, SOMETHING'S DIFFERENT...

AAAAU!
EEEEK!
!


ム゛ウウゥ…
*MNNNN
モ゛オオオオ…
*MOGGGHHH


OH, MY...
SHOULD I BE SCARED OR JUST LAUGH...?
WHO'LL WIN, DIRTBAG OR BAGS-O-DIRT?
ププ…
*PBBT

FALCON OF THE MILLENNIUM EMPIRE ARC
THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER

MANSION OF THE SPIRIT TREE, PART 2

霊樹の館②

ボオオオ・オ・・
*BOHHHH
バアアア
*BAHHH
THE HORDES, THE HORDES, HERE THEY COME!
ムウウウウ
*HMNNNNG
トコ・トコ・
*FX: TOK TOK
ピタ
*POINK

YEEEE! GO AWAY, FREAKY THING!
けりゃっ
*FX: KICK!
ガシャッ
*GACH
OH, WIMPY.
モコ。
*MUK
モコ。
*MUK
I-IT'S NO USE!
EVEN IF YOU BREAK 'EM THEY COME RIGHT BACK TOGETHER!
トコ!
*TOK
トコ
*TOK
ボアアア
*BOAHHH

ザッ
*SLASH
ドシャッ
*DOSH
*CHUNG
モッ
*MUK
モコ
*MUK
TCH!
THIS NEVER ENDS.
ヴウウウウ。。ウ。。。
*VOOOOO

SURE ENOUGH, IT'S THEM AGAIN.
....
IT'S USELESS. THE GOLEMS WILL CONTINUE TO REGENERATE EACH TIME THEY'RE BROKEN.
URAHH
OHH, LOOK AT 'EM TRYIN' HARD.
EVENTUALLY THEY'LL EITHER RUN IN FEAR OR COLLAPSE IN EXHAUSTION.
BUT HOW DID THEY PASS THROUGH THE BARRIER?
NORMAL HUMANS SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO ENTER HERE.
IS THERE SOME SECRET ABOUT THOSE TWO AFTER ALL?!

*FX. WHOM

OR IS THIS TOO AN EFFECT OF THE APPEARANCE OF THE HAWK...?
HUUUGE.
HEY, HEY! THAT GUY'S SWORD IS AMAZIN'!
WOW!
....
*FX: ZHOOM
THAT IT IS!
EEEEK!
FORGET SWORDS! IT'S EASIER TO SMASH 'EM WITH STICKS!
*WOK
*BOK
BUT STILL...

THERE! AHH... SO CLOSE!
...SOMEHOW THEY SEEM ACCUSTOMED TO THIS?
BRING IT!
WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT, THEY'RE NOT MUCH DIFFERENT THAN THE USUAL SPIRITS!
THEIR DUMB FACES MAKE 'EM LESS FRIGHTENIN'.
THAT THEY DO.
*FX: BENG
NOOOO!
*THUD
OH...
!
WHAT'S THAT?!
*TWITCH
*TWITCH

COME GET SOME MORE!
IT DOESN'T REGENERATE?!
EVERYONE! SMALL FIGURES ARE BURIED IN THEIR CHESTS BENEATH THE SYMBOLS!
REMOVE THEM AND THEY CANNOT REGENERATE!
OOPS, THE GAME'S UP.
YOU DON'T SAY.
NOW THAT I KNOW THAT...
*WHOM

THAT, HUH?!
*FX: GASH
*FX: HM
げしっ
ISIDROP KIIIICK!!
*FX: WHOP
SHUNK
*CLATA
*PTUMP
YEAH!
*WAK

WHAT NOW, SCHIERKE?! THEY'LL ALL GET BUSTED!
*DOSH
*HN HN
*HN HN
*BISH BISH びびすす
*BISH BISH びびすす
IN THAT CASE...
GO, SCHIERKE! GET 'EM!
THAT IS QUITE ENOUGH.
MISTRESS.
BUT...
...
...YES, MISTRESS.
I UNDERSTAND.
IT WAS JUST GETTIN' GOOD.
*FX: HALT
ピタリ。
HN?

WH- WHAT'S HAPPENED?
THEY JUST UP AND STOPPED.
... ...
!
ギィィ
GREEE
....

I KNEW IT...!
'ELLO.
AHH!
THE WITCH...
....
MISTRESS WITCH, PLEASE LISTEN...!
YOU ARE ALL WELCOME. IT SEEMS MY MISTRESS WILL SEE YOU.
YEAH!
YOU READ MY MIND!
*FX: DMP DMP DMP DMP
I'LL TAKE YA ON!!
COMIN' IIIN.
AH...
HOLD ON...
*URAHHH
WHAT DO WE DO?
WE'VE BEEN INVITED.
LET'S GO HAVE A LOOK AT THE WITCH.

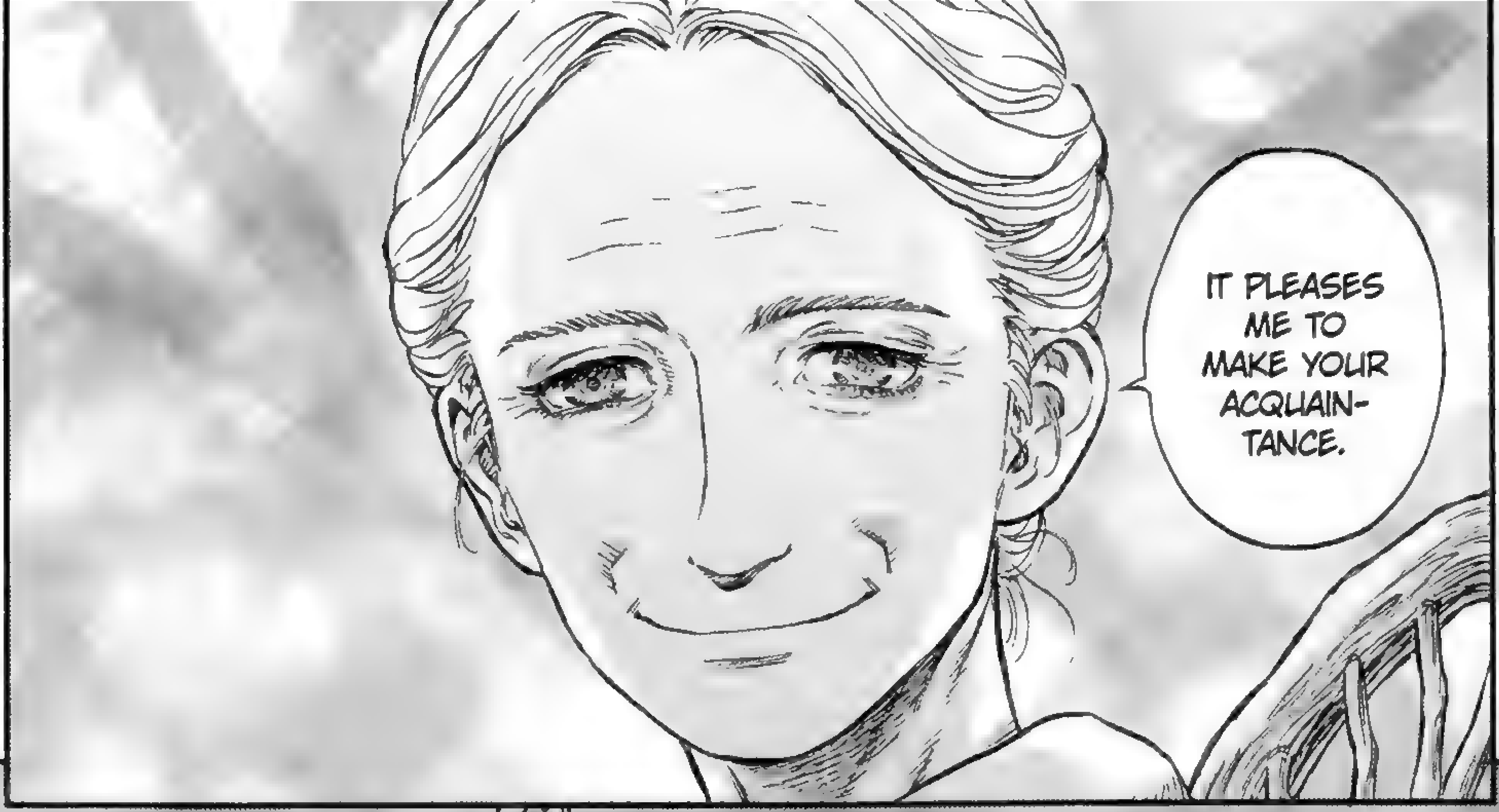
WOOO!
WHAT'S ALL THIS NEAT STUFF?!
FEELS MORE LIKE A NEST THAN A HOUSE. I FEEL LIKE I'M A SQUIRREL OR SOMETHIN'.
AND IT'S FILLED WITH TONS OF WEIRD STUFF.
THIS TAKES ME BACK.
IT DOES?
LOTSA MAGIC USERS LIVED WHERE I CAME FROM. I HUNG OUT WITH 'EM A LOT.
AH, THE MEMORIES...
YOU SWINDLING SPRITE!
*VMMM
*GSHANNG
YOU THERE!
DO NOT GO TOUCHING THINGS ON THE DESK.
BRAT.
AIN'T *YOU* SUPPOSED TO BE THE WITCH?

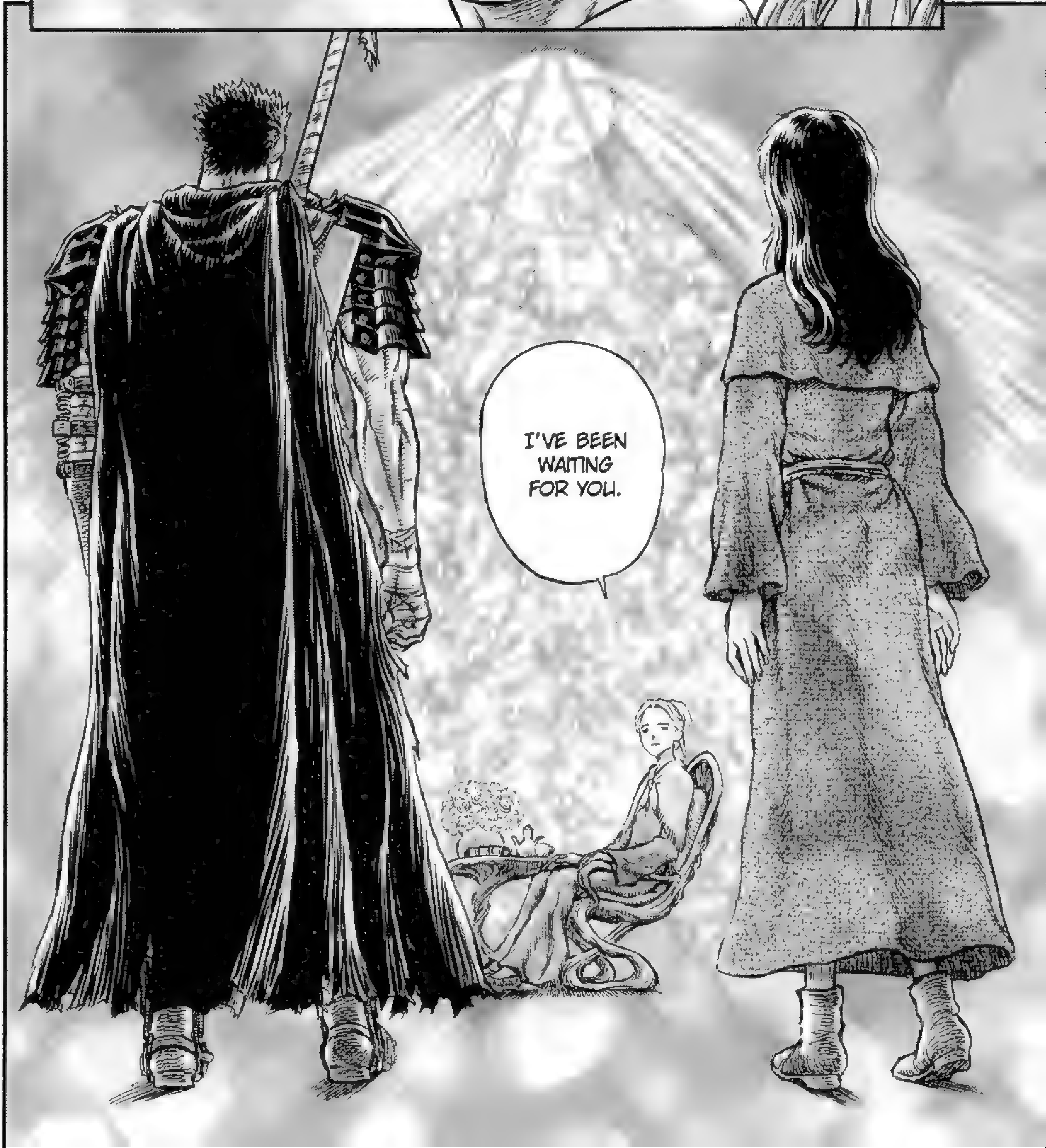
I AM SCHIERKE, AND I AM STILL IN TRAINING.
I'M IVALERA.
I LOOK AFTER HER.
HUH. NOT EVEN A REAL WITCH YET.
I'M ISIDRO, AND I OWE YOU ONE. I SPENT HALF A DAY UP THE FAMILY TREE THANKS TO YOU.
W-WON'T COME OFF...
THAT WAS BECAUSE YOU GRABBED ME IN A WEIRD PLACE!!
WEIRD PLACE? IF YOU DON'T SPELL IT OUT, I DON'T GET IT. OOK! I'M A MONKEY, Y'KNOW. OOK!
*UKE
*WHORL WHORL
AS I SAID...
...A WEIRD PLACE!
BOOBS.
...
WHAAAA?
*FX: HHHH... HHHH...
AS I SAID...
...
AS I SAID, BOOBS.
...
WHAAAA?
*FX: TWITCH
STOP WITH THE TEASING.
*WHOCK
*KRISSH
COULD YOU JUST HURRY AND LET US SEE YOUR MISTRESS OR WHATEVER?
FOOLS.
*SPRT
*FX: BLEED
COME, THIS WAY...

I HAVE BROUGHT THEM, MISTRESS.
WELCOME ...
...TO THE MANSION OF THE SPIRIT TREE.

SHE IS...
...A WITCH?
PLEASE FORGIVE MY APPRENTICE FOR BEING IMPOLITE.
SHE IS MERELY CONCERNED FOR MY SAFETY...
I AM FLORA, THE MISTRESS OF THIS MANSION.
SHE'S A WITCH? I THOUGHT FOR SURE WITCHES HAD POINTED NOSES AND LOOKED LIKE SOME WRINKLED MONSTER!
I-INSOLENCE!
HOHO... THANK YOU. I'LL TAKE THAT AS A COMPLIMENT.
OHH... YOU ARE...
...SURELY THE ONE FROM...
I REMEMBER!
MY MOTHER WAS SAVED FROM THE BRINK OF DEATH BY THE MEDICINE I RECEIVED FROM YOU THAT DAY FIFTY YEARS AGO! IT'S UNBELIEVABLE. YOU'RE JUST AS YOU WERE THEN!
IN A WAY SHE IS A MONSTER...
YOU BE SILENT, MONKEY!
I TOO REMEMBER.
YOU WERE THAT BOY.
HOW NOSTALGIC.
LADY FARNESE?
YOUNG LADY...
...YOU NEEDN'T BE SO FRIGHTENED.

MY FOLK WERE NOT AMONG THOSE WHOSE LIVES YOU TOOK.
EVEN IF THEY WERE, THE FAULT WOULD COLLECTIVELY LIE UPON THE SERVANTS OF YOUR DEITY.
I DO NOT SEEK RETRIBUTION FROM YOU AS AN INDIVIDUAL.
HOW'D SHE...?!
AND YOU...
THE BRANDED PAIR.
!
HOW DID YOU...?


IT PLEASES ME TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE.


I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.

YOU'VE BEEN WAITING?
THEN...
...YOU KNOW ABOUT US?

FALCON OF THE MILLENNIUM EMPIRE ARC
THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER

THE ASTRAL WORLD

幽界（かくりよ）

YES.
THEY OF THE BRAND, GUIDED BY TINY WINGS.
I HAVE AWAITED YOU.
SHE KNOWS ABOUT THE BRAND...?!
COULD SHE BE AN APOSTLE?!
NO... BUT...
...THIS FEELING...
IT ACHES FAINTLY...
...BUT... SOMETHING'S DIFFERENT...
......
THEY OF THE BRAND ...?

OLD WOMAN.
WHO THE HELL...?
ONE MOMENT.
HIS STORY IS OF THE HIGHER PRIORITY.
YOUR STORY...
...IS OF TROLLS.
Y-YES...
I AM ANXIOUS ABOUT THEM, TOO.
TROLLS ORIGINATE FROM THE ASTRAL WORLD.
RARELY SHOULD THEY EVEN BE SEEN BY HUMANS...
...MUCH LESS ATTACK THEIR HOMES...
WELL...
IN THAT CASE...
....
UNFORTUNATELY...
...I CANNOT ASSIST YOU.
H-HOW COME?

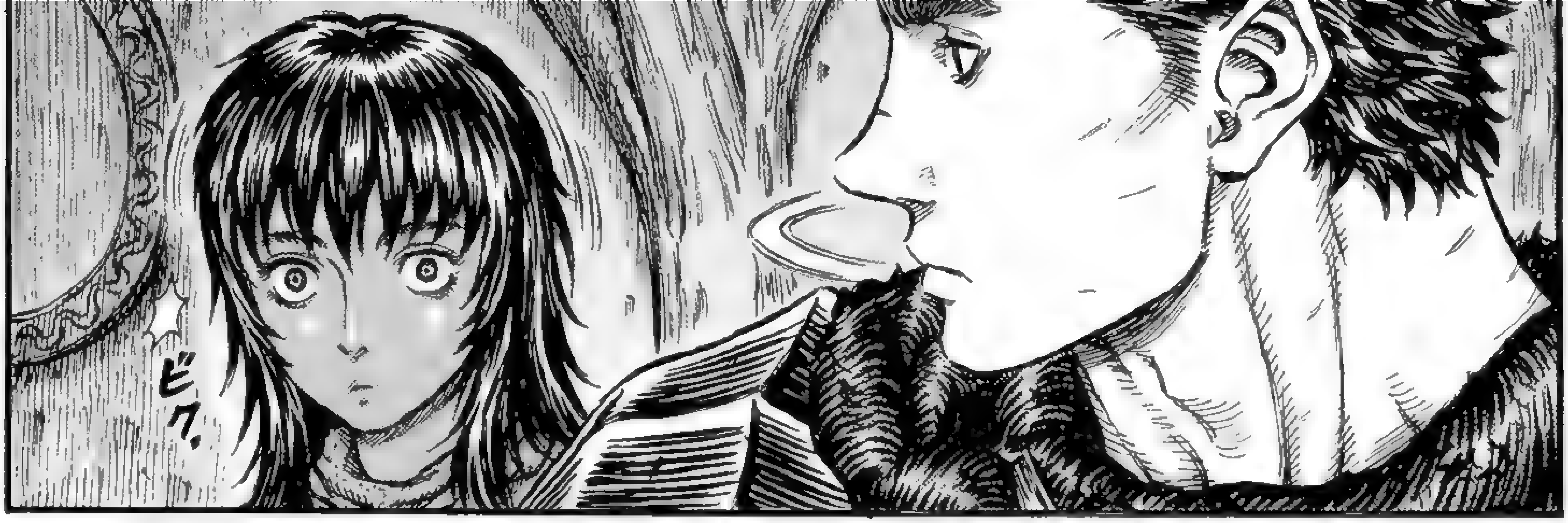
THIS OLD BODY HAS...
...NEITHER THE STRENGTH ...
...NOR THE TIME LEFT TO LEAVE THIS PLACE.
......
*FX: GLARE
THE WAY YOU TALK, IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE GONNA *DIE.*
WH-WHAT?
IF LOOKS COULD KILL...
?
YOU'RE A BIT INSENSITIVE!
AS THE BOY SAYS...
...MY TIME OF DEATH DRAWS NEAR.
NOW I SIMPLY WAIT QUIETLY FOR IT...
!

AHH ...
THEN HOW IN THE WORLD WILL WE...
NO NEED TO WORRY.
I CANNOT GO MYSELF, BUT I CAN HAVE ONE GO IN MY STEAD.
SCHIERKE, BE OF SERVICE TO THEM.
!
WHOA, BIG JOB!
MISTRESS, NO... I...
IT IS HIGH TIME FOR YOU TOO TO PUT YOUR TRAINING INTO PRACTICE.
BUT, I...
HEY NOW, YOU CHICKEN?
TWERP!
I AM *NOT!*
HOW VULGAR!
*HMM...
フゥ

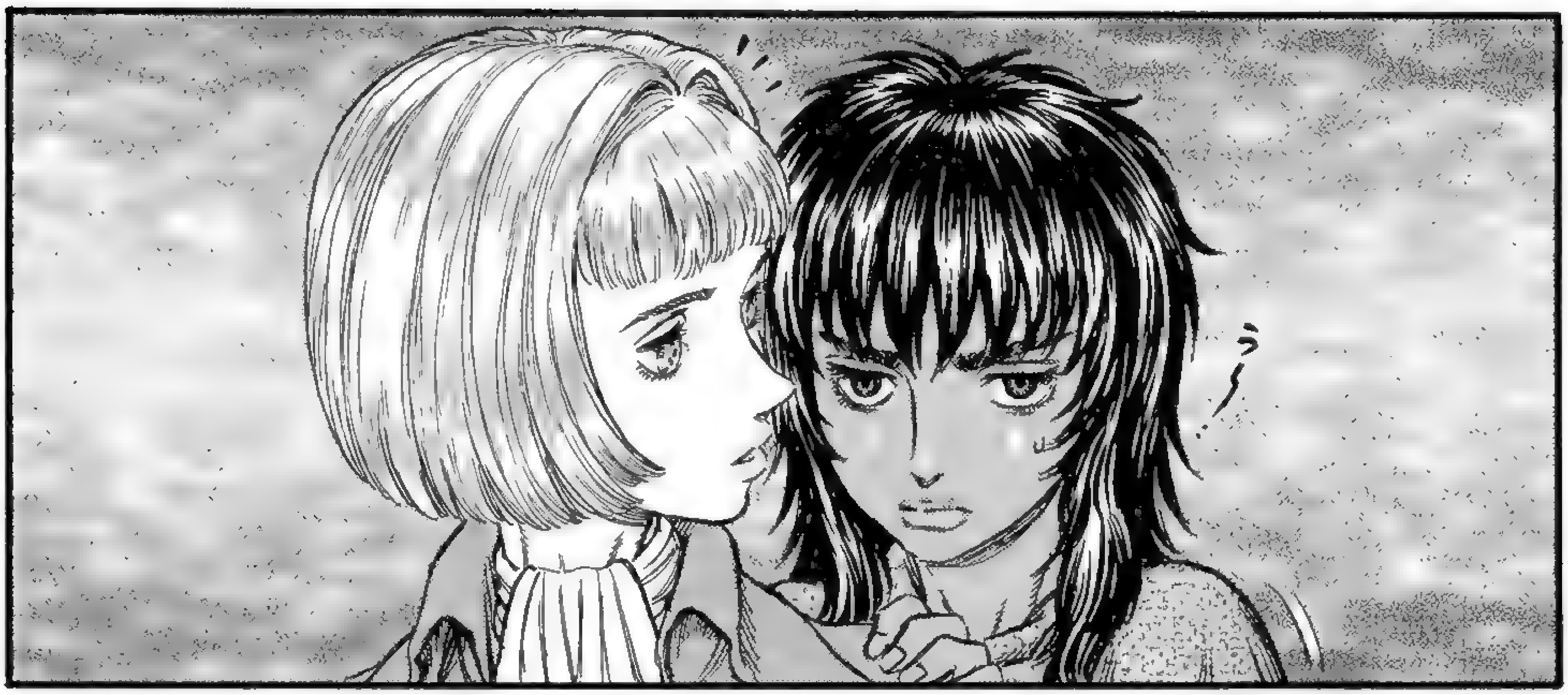
COULD I ASK ALL OF YOU, PLEASE, TO ASSIST MY DISCIPLE?
!
WHOA, WHOA.
I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR FAVORITE STUDENT, BUT WE'VE GOT NO OBLIGATION TO GO THAT FAR. SORRY, BUT WE'VE GOTTA STICK TO OUR JOURNEY.
NATURALLY, I DO NOT ASK YOUR HELP FOR FREE.
I THINK I MIGHT BE OF SOME USE TO YOU AS WELL.
UPON YOUR RETURN, I SHALL PRODUCE TALISMANS TO PROTECT YOU ON THE REST OF YOUR JOURNEY.

WHAT'S A TALISMAN?
IT IS A CHARM.
CHARMS?
AIN'T THAT ALL IN YOUR HEAD?
HOW RUDE!
TALISMANS MADE BY THE MAGI ARE NOT THE SAME AS SUPERSTITIONS!
EVEN AMONG THEM, MY MISTRESS' ARE SPECIAL!
IGNORAMUSES JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND.
IGNOREGRETFULLY.
LAY OFF ALREADY.
THE CURSED POWER OF THAT BRAND DEFIES IMAGINATION. ERASING IT IS BEYOND MY POWER.
HOWEVER, WEAKENING THE INTENSITY OF ITS POWER...
...SHOULD REDUCE THE EVIL SPIRITS IT CAN DRAW... OR AT LEAST PROTECT AGAINST YOU YOURSELVES BECOMING POSSESSED.
!
Y-YOU CAN...
...DO THAT?!
HOWEVER, DUE TO THE IMMENSE POWER OF THE CURSE, THERE IS A TIME LIMIT TO THE POTENCY OF THE TALISMAN.
EVEN SO, IT SHOULD HOLD FOR THE DURATION OF YOUR JOURNEY.

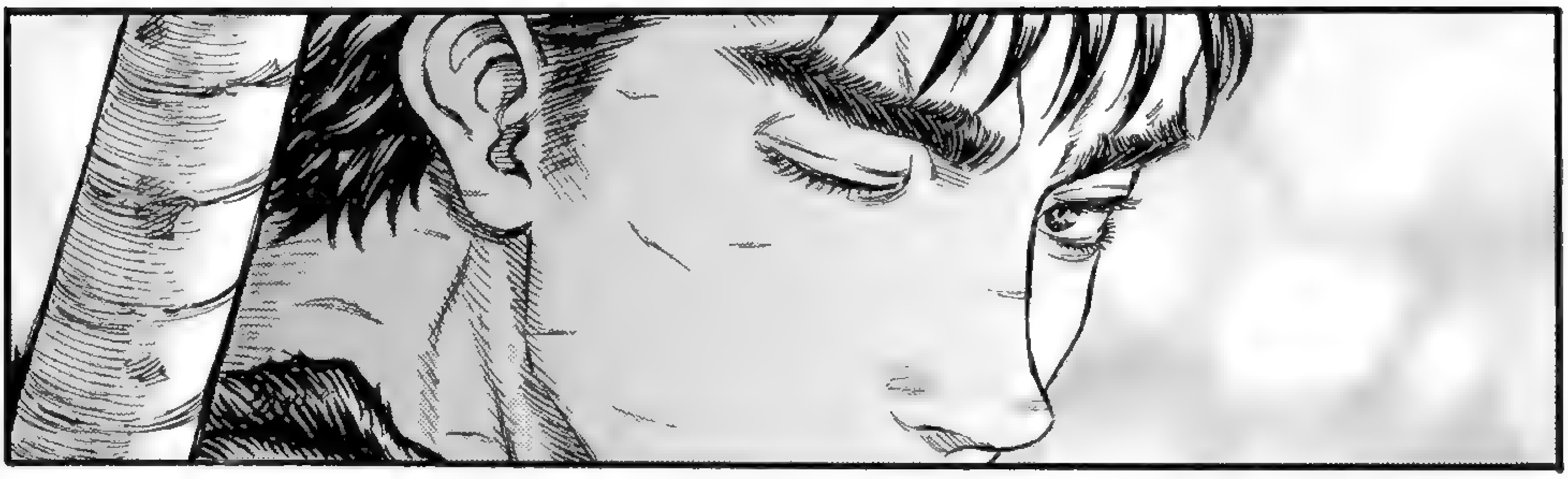
IT'LL PROTECT ...
... AGAINST THAT.
OH, OKAY.
SO THAT'S WHAT THAT BRAND DOES.
NO WONDER THEY SWARM EVERY NIGHT...
HAVE YOU BEEN ON THIS JOURNEY WITH THEM NOT EVEN KNOWING THAT ?
YEAH.
SO THAT'S WHY...
I KNEW WHY.
IS THAT FOOLISH OR DARING ...?

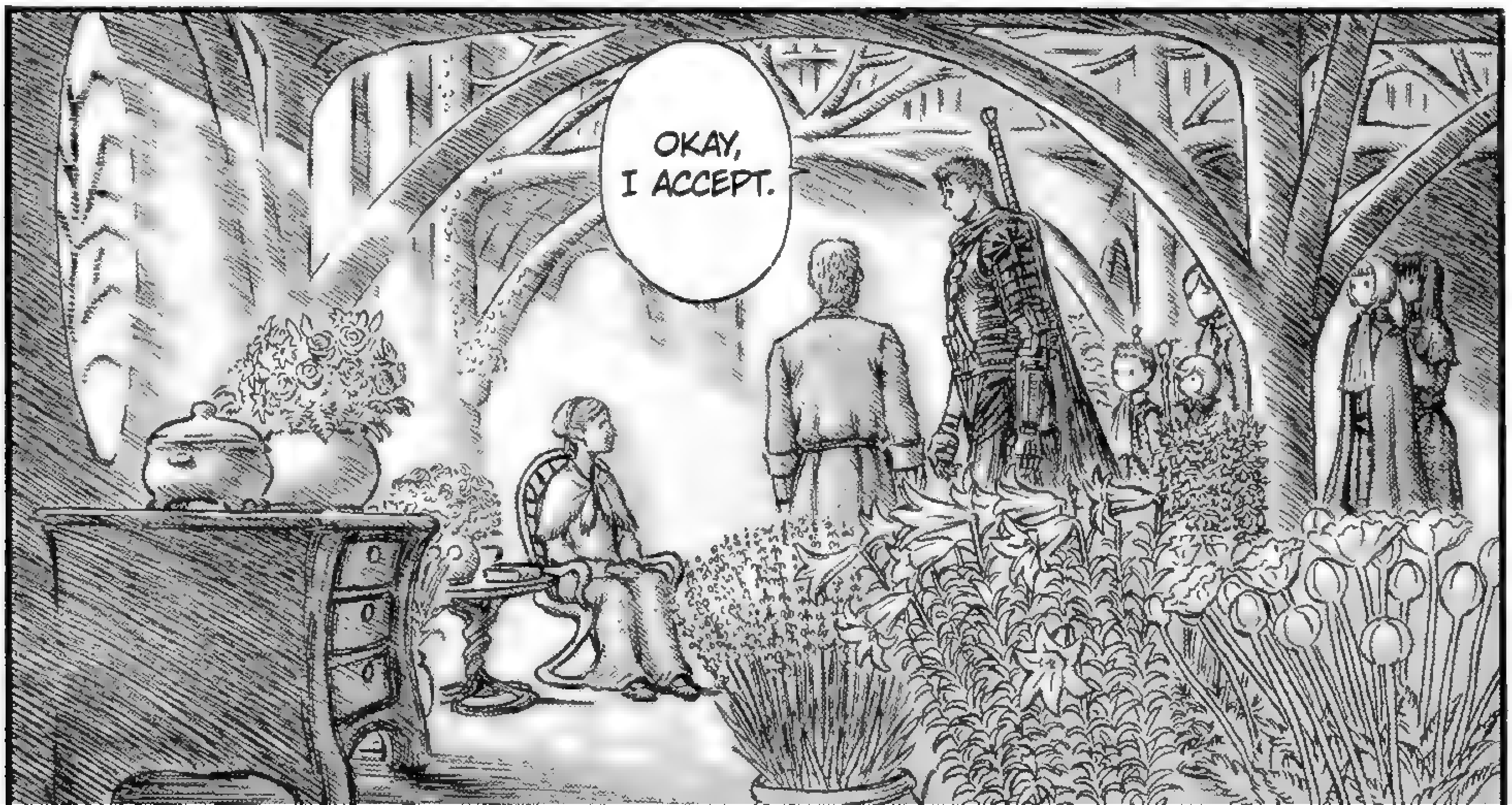


*FX: FLINCH



*FX: OOOO




OKAY, I ACCEPT.

NEGOTIATION COMPLETE.
ニコ
*SMILE
THANK YOU SO MUCH...!
H-HEY...
...
THIS IS GETTIN' INTERESTIN'.
OH, BOTHER.
BRUTE SLAYING, EH?
M-MISTRESS...!
WHY BOTHER...?
EXTEND GREETINGS TO EVERYONE, SCHIERKE.
......
IT...
IT IS NICE TO MEET ALL OF YOU...
*FX: WHAP WHAP
YEAHHH, LEAVE IT TO US!
THERE'S SOMETHIN' I OWE THOSE THINGS! I'M TALKIN' REVENGE!
*HMPH
WELL, TRY NOT TO GET IN THE WAY, LITTLE WITCH APPRENTICE.
SOMEONE HOLDS A GRUDGE.
*HEH
THAT'S BAITIN'.

NOW PREPARE THE EVENING MEAL, SCHIERKE.
AND THE MEDICATED BATH.
OH, A BATH. ♡
YES, MISTRESS...
YOU MUST ALL BE TIRED FROM YOUR LONG JOURNEY. PLEASE REST EASY FOR THE NIGHT, THEN DEPART TOMORROW.
SCHIERKE TOO HAS VARIOUS PREPARATIONS TO MAKE.
WAIT A MINUTE. IF YOU KNOW ABOUT THE BRAND, YOU SHOULD ALSO KNOW THAT WE...
NO NEED TO WORRY.
THIS MANSION IS PROTECTED BY TALISMANS AS WELL.
I GUARANTEE SAFETY FOR THE NIGHT.
YOU MAY REST EASY.

I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER HAD A MEAL OF NOTHIN' BUT NUTS 'N' LEAVES.
S'GOOD, THOUGH.
IT IS NUTRITIOUS.
*GOM
*GOM
OLD LADY, BACK TO WHAT WE WERE TALKIN' ABOUT...
YOU SAID YOU WERE WAITIN' FOR US. WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE BRAND?
THERE WAS AN ORACLE...
...FROM A FRIEND IN THE ASTRAL WORLD.
"THEY OF THE BRAND WILL VISIT THIS FOREST, GUIDED BY TINY WINGS..."
"I WANT YOU TO LEND THEM A HAND."
ORACLE ...?
THOUGH I'M THE ONE BEING HELPED NOW...
...SO IT'S REVERSED.
...
"LEND A HAND"...
WHO THE HELL SAID--?

HEY! WHAT'S THAT **ASTRAL** WORLD THING?
TO PUT IT SIMPLY, THE **AFTER-LIFE.**
YOU CAN'T HAVE 'EM ALL!
LAST ONE.
DUE TO THE CURSED POWER OF THE BRAND, YOU **ALL** HAVE BEEN RENDERED ABLE...
...TO KEENLY SENSE ETHEREAL BODIES UNSEEN BY THE NAKED EYE.
ARE ETHEREAL BODIES GHOSTS?
THERE IS A TRINITY...
...IN WHICH OUR WORLD IS OVERLAPPED BY THE EXISTENCE OF TWO OTHER WORLDS.
ONE IS KNOWN COMMONLY AS THE WORLD OF SPIRITS, THE ASTRAL WORLD.
THE OTHER IS THE SOUL OF THE ORIGIN OF ALL EXISTENCE, THE WORLD OF THE IDEA.
THAT'S A LITTLE COMPLICATED, BUT IT COMES DOWN TO GHOSTS, RIGHT? AIN'T THEY A LITTLE TOO LIVELY? THEY'RE ALL STICKY LIKE SNOT.
MAKES ME SICK.
THOSE ARE THE ETHEREAL BODIES THAT **YOUR** ETHEREAL BODY'S PERCEIVING.
HOW VULGAR!
IF AN ETHEREAL BODY IS SENSED STRONGLY ENOUGH, YOUR PHYSICAL BODY WILL SEE IT...
...AND TOUCH IT AS IF IT WERE A REAL THING.
AMATEURS CANNOT TELL ONE FROM THE OTHER!
MIGHT THAT MEAN ...?
ELVES AND TROLLS ARE INHABITANTS OF THAT SAME ASTRAL WORLD.
?
MANY PEOPLE OVER THE AGES HAVE RECOGNIZED THIS FACT AS REALITY, AND BECAUSE THEIR WORLD VIEW CONTINUES TO BE PASSED DOWN, WE ARE ABLE TO PERCEIVE, SEE, AND TOUCH THESE LITTLE ONES.

LONG AGO IT WAS QUITE NATURAL TO BELIEVE IN THE EXISTENCE OF ELVES. BUT WITH THE SPREAD OF THE DOCTRINE OF THE *HOLY SEE,* OF ONE UNIVERSAL WORLD VIEW, THOSE WHO CAN SEE THEM HAVE DWINDLED...
...SO MANY OF THE ELVES WHO CAN NO LONGER INTERACT WITH HUMANS HAVE FADED AWAY TO SOME PLACE IN THE ASTRAL WORLD.
AHH!
ヒョイ! パク。
*FX: YOINK CHOMP
...
AHA! SO THAT'S WHY FARNY COULDN'T SEE ME AT FIRST. BUT NOW THAT SHE'S SEEN ENOUGH SCARY STUFF...
SAVOR THE TASTE.
!!
YUM YUM YUM.
ピク。。。
*FX: TWITCH
スススリリリ
*FX: RUB RUB RUB
PLEASE DO NOT TEASE HER.
YOU'RE SURE WE'LL BE OKAY IN YOUR HOMELAND...? DON'T TELL ME IT'S THE AFTERLIFE...
NO PROB, NO PROB.
PLENTY A' PEOPLE'VE LIVED THERE.
I THINK!
WHAT ARE YOU, DUMB ?!
PIXIES ARE BORN EXAGGERATORS. I'M A DIFFERENT STORY THOUGH!
THEN, HEY! ALL EVERYONE HAS TO DO IS STOP BELIEVIN' IN WEIRD STUFF!
THEN EVEN THE TROLLS'LL BE GONE, JUST LIKE THAT...
THINGS ARE NOT THAT SIMPLE.
THERE IS A THING CALLED THE SUBCONSCIOUS THAT HUMANS CANNOT THEMSELVES CONTROL ...
FINE, NEVER MIND.
*banner: COGITO, ERGO SUM.
DON'T SAY SUCH MEAN THINGS !!!
ALL RIGHT !
あやしげ
*headband: WEIRD

SINCE LONG AGO, WE MAGI HAVE LEARNED AND INHERITED THE PRACTICE OF RELEASING OUR ETHEREAL BODIES...
...FROM THE CONFINES OF OUR PHYSICAL WORLD TO DELVE INTO THE ASTRAL WORLD.
YOU CAN DO THAT KINDA THING?
AN OUT-OF-BODY EXPERIENCE. VERY NICE. ♡
IN THE RELATIVELY SHALLOW LAYER OF THE ASTRAL WORLD KNOWN AS THE *INTERSTICE* ...
...VARIOUS ETHEREAL BEINGS EXIST AS LIVING LEGENDS.
EVEN THE SCENERY IS MOSTLY DERIVED FROM THE ETHEREAL FORMS OF OUR WORLD, SO THERE IS LITTLE DISPARITY BETWEEN IT AND OUR PHYSICAL REALITY.
THUS, THE DEAD WHO DID NOT REALIZE THEY DIED OR WHO LEFT THE PHYSICAL WORLD REGRETFULLY...
...OFTEN WANDER THERE.
EVENTUALLY, NEARLY ALL BECOME AWARE OF THEIR OWN DEATH OR BECOME UNABLE TO MAINTAIN THE FORM OF THEIR ETHEREAL BODIES AND PASS AWAY FROM THIS LAYER.
THEN, IN THE DEEP LAYER OF THE ASTRAL WORLD...
...THE SCENERY COMES TO LOOK UNIMAGINABLY DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF THE PHYSICAL WORLD.
THERE EXIST ASTRAL ENTITIES WITH WHOM THE ETHEREAL BODIES...
...OF MERE HUMANS CANNOT EVEN COMPARE.
ANGELS, DEMONS, GODS OF POLYTHEISM...

DEEPER STILL...
...REALMS PEOPLE REACH ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN KARMA.
MAYBE THOSE PLACES CALLED HEAVEN AND HELL EXIST.
THOUGH IF YOU DIVE TOO DEEP, YOU BECOME UNABLE TO RETURN, SO NO ONE HAS EVER GONE THAT FAR WHILE ALIVE...
FURTHER STILL...
...IN THE ABYSS...
...PERHAPS...

....
THE WORLD DOESN'T EXTEND IN MERELY TWO DIMENSIONS.
THERE EXIST PROFOUND DEPTHS WITHIN ITSELF.
THIS WORLD COULD NEVER...
...BE SUMMARIZED BY MATERIALISM OR ANY SINGLE DOCTRINE.
ACCEPT THE GREAT MYSTERIES...
...AND EXPLORE THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE FROM WITHIN YOUR WORLD.
THAT IS THE WAY OF MAGIC.

FALCON OF THE MILLENNIUM EMPIRE ARC
THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER

MAGIC STONE

魔石

BERSERK

COME ON, HOLD STILL.
NYA HA HEE...
IT'S SO DAMAGED FROM THE LONG JOURNEY.
ゴシ
*SHUK
ゴシ
*SHUK
AOOO...
WHEHHH...

I NEVER EVEN DREAMED I WOULD FIND COMFORT LIKE THIS...
...DURING OUR TRAVELS.
*SIP
WHAT'S MORE...
...IN A WITCH'S MANSION.
...
*FX: SHFF SHFF
セッ
セッ
...
NOW THEN ...
*FX: OMMMM
コオオオ
*RRR
*FX: GRRR
*GRAB!
ガシ!
がるるる
A CHILD'S PRIVILEGE !!
GYOBWAHH...
*SCRUB
*SCRUB
ケロリン

YOU WISH TO SHOW ME SOME-THING?
WHAT MIGHT THAT BE?
EIGH! EIGH!
えい! えい!
BOK BOK
ボコ ボコ
LET'S HANG 'IM HERE 'TIL MORNING.
....
DO YOU...
...KNOW WHAT THIS IS?

THAT'S...
!
IS THAT ...?!
WHAT'S WRONG?
DOES THIS BELONG TO YOU?
WHERE THE BLAZES DID YOU--
I GOT IT FROM A CERTAIN MAN.
......
I SEE.
YES...
I KNOW IT.
ALL WHO ASPIRE TOWARD MASTERING THE WAY OF MAGIC DO.
A *BEHELIT.*
A KEY THAT LINKS A DEEP LAYER OF THE ASTRAL WORLD TO THE PHYSICAL WORLD.

A FETISH FOR SUMMONING *THE FIVE ANGELS.*
THAT'S A WITCH FOR YOU.
STRAIGHT TO THE POINT.
......
TELL ME...

...THE WAY TO USE THIS...
...AND *SUMMON* THEM.
......
......
THE *BRAND*...
THEY CARVED THAT INTO YOU.
REVENGE, THEN...

HEY...
COME BACK HERE!
THAT ISN'T LADYLIKE BEHAVIOR...!
OOOO
E... EXCUSE US!
TO PROTECT THAT GIRL...
GUZZLE
...YOU ARE ALL HEADED FOR *ELFHELM.*
CORRECT?
!
ELF-HELM...?
YOU DON'T MISS A THING.
......
HOW IRONIC...

IT MUST BE THAT MALICE...
...THAT HAS KEPT YOU ON YOUR FEET UNTIL THIS DAY.
YOUR LIFE CANNOT BE WITHOUT HATRED...
...BUT THAT HELLFIRE...
...IS STRIVING TO INCINERATE EVEN THOSE YOU CONSIDER IRREPLACEABLE.
AND SO IT BECOMES SHACKLES...
...WHICH MAKE YOUR SWORD HEAVY AND BLUNT.

JUST LIKE TREADING ACROSS THIN ICE...
...IT IS A DIFFICULT...
...AND DANGEROUS EXPEDITION.
UNFORTUNATELY...
...I CAN'T MEET YOUR EXPECTATIONS.
YOU MEAN YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE TELLIN' ME?
NOT THAT.
YOU THINK THIS IS SOMETHING...
...THAT CAN BE USED IF ONLY YOU FIND THE MEANS, BUT IT IS NOT.

A BEHELIT IS A HIGHLY SPIRITUAL OBJECT THAT GOVERNS EVEN HUMAN FATE... PERHAPS AN ***EVEN GREATER EXISTENCE*** SENT IT TO THE PHYSICAL WORLD.
THE OBJECT ITSELF IS AS NOTHING MORE THAN A STONE, BUT THE FATE ASSOCIATED WITH IT RESTS IN THE HANDS OF ITS MASTER WHO SENT IT.
WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT, IT WILL BE IN THE HANDS OF THE PERSON TO WHOM IT BELONGS.
THAT'S THE WAY IT IS.
IF THIS BEHELIT INDEED ***BELONGS*** TO ***YOU,*** EVEN IF YOU WERE TO DISCARD IT, WHEN THE TIME COMES, IT SHALL FIND YOU.
IF IT IS NOT YOURS THEN, IN SPITE OF YOUR WILL, IT SHALL AT SOME POINT LEAVE YOUR HAND.
AND IT IS CERTAIN...
...TO BE AT THE VERY MOMENT ...
...THAT THE OWNER CRAVES ***THEIR*** POWER.

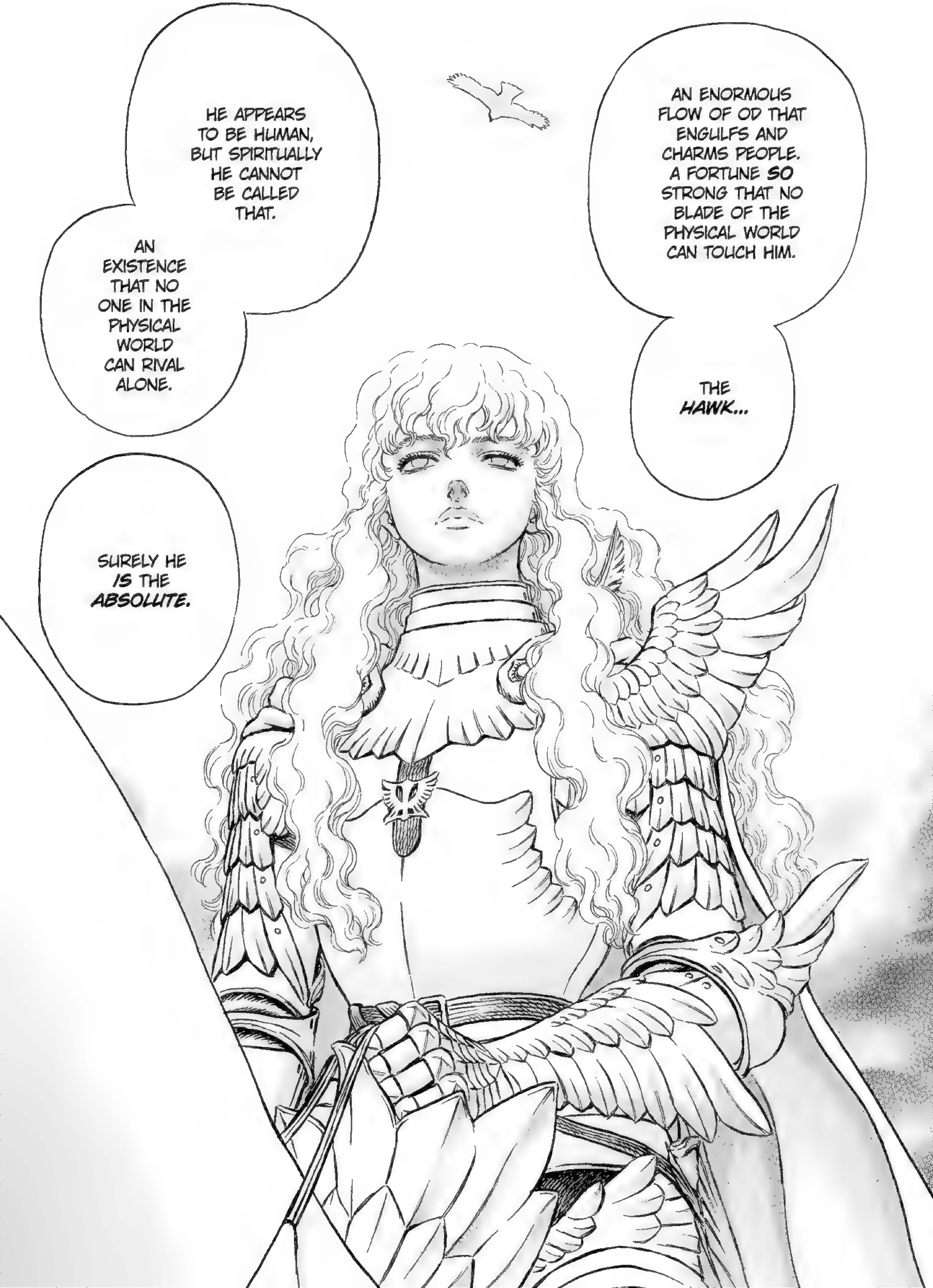
IN ANY CASE, IT IS BEYOND HUMAN WILL.
GOD ONLY KNOWS, *HUH?*
I CAN'T STAND THAT.
EVEN IF, TO YOU, THIS IS A BEACON FOR REVENGE...
...I FERVENTLY...
...WISH THAT IT LEAVE YOUR HAND.
WELL... ...I DON'T PLAN...
...TO DO ANYTHING WITH IT JUST YET.
OH, YEAH.
YOU KNEW I'D BE PASSING THROUGH, BUT WHO--
AHH!
STOP, STOP!
DON'T GO CARRYIN' MY BETCHI AROUND WITHOUT ASKIN'!
*SNATCH

IT'S YOURS?
RIGHT.
I MEAN, I'M THE ONE TAKIN' CARE OF HIM.
HM HM
クスクス
I BETCHA DON'T KNOW BETCHI'S FAVORITE FOOD. IT'S CHEESE.
ONE MORE THING.
THE GODHAND.
WHAT THE HELL ARE THEY?
THAT IS ONE OF THE GREAT MYSTERIES FOR THOSE OF US WHO EXPLORE THE ASTRAL WORLD.
WHAT I DO KNOW IS THAT THEY WERE ONCE HUMAN...
...AND THAT AS REINCARNATIONS...
...THEY ARE THE EXECUTORS OF THE WILL OF SOMETHING LURKING IN THE DISTANT ABYSS OF THE ASTRAL WORLD.
PERHAPS IN THAT DOMAIN, IT IS UNATTAINABLE...
...FOR ONE TO ARRIVE AS A PERSON, CLAD IN THE ETHEREAL BODY CALLED EGO.

MAN OH MAN...
WHAT A CLOUD OF WORDS.
I'M SORRY I CAN'T BE OF USE.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, I'M JUST COUNTIN' ON THE TALISMANS.
I'LL GO TAKE A BATH TOO.
......
WELL...
...DO THE BEST YOU CAN TOMORROW.
THAT... IS THE BRAND OF SACRIFICE.
IT WAS TAUGHT TO ME BY MY MISTRESS...
...THAT THOSE BRANDED WITH THAT BECOME AN OFFERING TO THOSE OF THE DARKNESS UNTIL THEIR DYING BREATH...
......

DO YOU...
...INTEND TO DEFY...
...THINGS SUCH AS ANGELS AND DEMONS THAT CAN EVEN GOVERN FATE?
YOU GOT IT.
ONE DAY...
...I'LL HAVE TO HIT 'EM WHERE IT HURTS.

I'M GONNA BATHE BETCHI, TOO. ♡
IT'S GONNA COOK LIKE AN EGG.
WHAT'S THE MATTER, SCHIERKE?
HE IS FOOLISH.
OR MAYBE UNENLIGHTENED...
THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS ARE INDISPENSABLE EVEN FOR MAGIC.
BUT...
...HIS OPPONENT IS A TRANSCENDENTAL ENTITY BEYOND PHYSICAL REASONING!
WHEN I WENT TO MIDLAND BY YOUR COMMAND TO CONFIRM THE FULFILLMENT OF THE REVELATION...
...I SAW HIM.


AN ENORMOUS FLOW OF OD THAT ENGULFS AND CHARMS PEOPLE. A FORTUNE SO STRONG THAT NO BLADE OF THE PHYSICAL WORLD CAN TOUCH HIM.
THE HAWK...
HE APPEARS TO BE HUMAN, BUT SPIRITUALLY HE CANNOT BE CALLED THAT.
AN EXISTENCE THAT NO ONE IN THE PHYSICAL WORLD CAN RIVAL ALONE.
SURELY HE IS THE ABSOLUTE.

IF HE IS THE INCARNATED FORM OF THE FIFTH ANGEL RECORDED IN THE REVELATION...
...IF HE IS THE *HAWK OF DARKNESS,* THEN HE IS DREADFUL.
IT WAS THAT HAWK HIMSELF...
...WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR BRANDING HIM.
!
THEN ALL THE MORE REASON ...
SCHIERKE.
WE MAGI HAPPEN TO POSSESS, MORE THAN MOST PEOPLE, KNOWLEDGE OF THE MANY POWERS IMMANENT TO THIS WORLD.
BUT DOES NOT THAT KNOWLEDGE ITSELF SOMETIMES RENDER US BLIND?

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN ?
I DO NOT REALLY UNDERSTAND YOUR WORDS.
BE NOT ENAMORED SOLELY WITH THE WONDROUS MARVELS ...
...BUT LOOK CLOSELY AT THE TRUTH THAT IS BEFORE YOUR EYES.
YOU SEE...
...HE IS STILL ALIVE.
!
HE CONTESTED WITH FATE...
...SURVIVED IT...
...AND ENCOUNTERED YOU.
THE FAVORITE DISCIPLE OF FLORA, WITCH OF THE FOREST OF THE SPIRIT TREE.
SCHIERKE.

YOU WISH FOR ME TO *AID* HIM?!
IT IS *YOU* WHO WILL DECIDE THAT.
GOD BESTOWS UPON US FATE.
BUT IT IS THE CHILDREN OF MEN WHO CHOOSE IT.
THIS IS MY BELIEF.
GO AND WITNESS WITH YOUR OWN EYES...
...THE SIGNIFICANT NATURE THIS ENCOUNTER WILL BEAR FOR YOU.

FALCON OF THE MILLENNIUM EMPIRE ARC THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER

ELEMENTALS

元素霊（エレメンタル）

THAT... DOES IT.
*FX: RUB
AGH...! WHAT THE--?
SEALED WITH PURIFICATION SALT.
IT IS COMPLETE. NOT ON THE SAME LEVEL OF MY MISTRESS' TALISMANS ...
...BUT THE BRAND SHOULD NOT ATTRACT EVIL SPIRITS FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS.
I LOOK FORWARD TO THAT.
ARE YOU READY OVER THERE?
THIS STUFF TINGLES.
WHAT IS THIS? OINTMENT?
IT'S NOT EDIBLE!
*BOP

IT IS CALLED FEMME FATALE OINTMENT. A KIND OF NARCOTIC MIXED FROM ALMOND OIL, CELERY, BELLADONNA, WOLFSBANE, AND THE LIKE.
WOLFSBANE...
WANNA SEE IF POISON WORKS ON ELVES OR NOT?
BECAUSE IT DULLS THE FIVE SENSES, IT MAKES IT EASIER TO PERCEIVE ETHEREAL BODIES.
ゴトッ *TOK
んしょ *HMM
NOW IS A GOOD TIME TO EXPLAIN THE THINGS I WILL GIVE TO YOU.
THESE ARE...?
MAGIC FETISHES.
THEY ARE MAGIC ARMS GRANTED THE PROTECTION OF THE SPIRITS.
I BORROWED THEM FROM MY MISTRESS.
WITH THESE, EVERYONE SHOULD BE ABLE TO CONFRONT THE TROLLS, EVEN WITHOUT SPELLCASTING.

FIRST, FOR SERPICO...
...THIS HOOD AND SWORD.
*WOOSH
*WSS
?
*WSS
WHAT IS THIS HOOD?
OHHH
IT FLOATS ON ITS OWN...
WHAT'S GOIN' ON?
PLEASE LOOK AT IT CLOSELY.
...
*GLOW
OH...?
I FAINTLY SEE SOME-THING...

......!
SHAPES LIKE TRANSPARENT WINGED INSECTS...
WOW, WHAT'RE THESE TINY GUYS?!
I-IT'S TRUE.
YES, THESE ARE WIND ELEMENTALS.
SYLPHS.
ELEMENTALS.

THE FOUR STATES INHERENT TO THE PHYSICAL WORLD-- SOLID, LIQUID, VAPOR, AND ENERGY-- ARE ALL RESONANT WITH THE WORKINGS OF ELEMENTALS IN THE ASTRAL WORLD, RESPECTIVELY-- EARTH, WATER, WIND, AND FIRE.
THESE LITTLE ONES ARE THE ETHEREAL FORMS OF THE ATMOSPHERE THAT FILLS THIS WORLD-- SPIRITS OF THE WIND THAT BLOWS ABOUT THE SKY.
HOW 'BOUT THAT.
SO YOU GUYS'RE THE WIND THAT ALWAYS HELPS ME OUT. I'M PUCK.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT? THEY'RE OUR ANCESTORS.
HOWAH?
YOU'RE A PIXIE, RIGHT? PIXIES'RE A FAMILY OF THE WIND SPIRITS, AFTER ALL. THERE'RE ALL KINDS, THOUGH.
YOU MEAN I'M A WIND SPIRIT?!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THE SHOCKIN' TRUTH!! I'M NOT A CHESTNUT HEAD?!
*WHONNNG
I'M THE SAME THING AS HIM...

THAT IS THE *SYLPH HOOD,* A FETISH GRANTED THE PROTECTION OF THE ELEMENTALS.
HE WHO WEARS IT IS CLAD IN ATMOSPHERIC CURRENT...
...AND CAN SWEEP ASIDE SWORDS AND ARROWS.
ALSO GRANTED THE WIND'S PROTECTION IS THE *SYLPH SWORD.*
THE BLADE IS MADE FROM A WHITE-SHOULDERED EAGLE'S FEATHER AND THE HILT FROM MISTLETOE GROWING ON THE HIGHEST BRANCH IN THE FOREST.
ONE SWING CAN GENERATE A WHIRLWIND...
...THAT CAN TEAR THE ENEMY'S FLESH WITHOUT EVEN TOUCHING IT.
THIS... IS A SWORD? OR A FEATHER DUSTER ...?

MIGHT I GIVE IT A TRY?
PLEASE.
KINDA WEAK, HUH?
YOU MAKIN' FUNNA MY FAMILY?!
THAT WAS QUICK!
......
NOW, SERPY! WITNESS WELL THE POWER OF MY BRETHREN!
ピュン
*SHMM
フッ
*FWFF
ヴヴッ
*VWAAA
おおっ
*OHH
ヒュー!
*WHRRL
SEE?!

THIS IS QUITE HANDY.
AIN'T MY TROOPS OVER-WHELMIN'?!
SHO 'NUFF!
OH NEAT! OH NEAT! WHERE'S MINE? WHERE'S MINE?
...
FOR YOU...
... THESE...
EGHHH, A DAGGERRR?
DON'T I GET A SWORD OR A SPEAR TOO?
WE HAVE NO ARMS FOR CHILDREN TO USE HERE.
HUH...?
THIS DAGGER.
IT'S GLOWIN' ALL RED...
!
WHAT THE--?
WHAT'RE THESE SMALL SQUIRMIN' THINGS...?
LIZARDS...?
THOSE ARE FIRE ELEMENTALS.
SALAMANDERS.

THE BLADE OF THE ***SALAMANDER DAGGER*** IS MAGICALLY CRAFTED FROM MOLTEN LAVA.
CUTS MADE WITH THAT DAGGER WILL IGNITE AND BURN AS IF STRUCK BY A HOT IRON.
HMMM...
FIRE'S DANGEROUS. GO WITH WIND, IT'S COOLER.
*FX: CHNK
RAH.
ホッ!
*BWOOSH
SALAMANDERS ARE ***HOOLIGANS***!
...
YOU MUSTN'T GIVE HIM THAT! THE WORLD'LL BURN IN A SEA OF FIRE...!
HE IS THE DANGEROUS TYPE TO GET HIS HANDS ON THINGS.
SO I SAY, BUT LADY FARNESE IS EVEN WORSE...
IT IS DANGEROUS! DON'T BRANDISH IT SO RECKLESSLY!
*FWMP
*FWMP
THIS'S SWEET.
SO, WHAT'S THIS?
THOSE ARE ***CONSECRATED BERRIES.*** YOU CAN SCATTER THE TROLLS IF YOU THROW THOSE AT THEM.
SOUNDS LIKE YOUR STYLE.
THEY ARE AT BEST FOR SELF-DEFENSE. IF IT WERE UP TO ME, I WOULD NOT BRING ALONG SOMEONE AS UNBRIDLED AS YOU.
SAY WHAT ?!
BUT IT IS MY MISTRESS' COMMAND, SO OH WELL.
*SIGH
PLEASE DO YOUR BEST NOT TO GET IN THE WAY LIKE YOU DID BEFORE.
I-I'M ABOUT TO GET IN YOUR WAY NOW...
NOW, NOW.
SAME FOR YOU.

FOR OUR TWO LADIES, FARNESE AND CASCA...
...SILVER CHAIN SHIRTS.
ALSO A SILVER KNIFE FOR FARNESE.
IT'S GLOWING FAINTLY.
SILVER HAS STRONG TALISMANIC PROPERTIES.
WHEN THE TIME COMES TO USE THE FETISHES, PLEASE ENVISION THE FAINT FIGURES YOU SEE NOW AS CLEARLY AS POSSIBLE.
THEIR EFFICACY IS REALIZED BY THE STRENGTH OF YOUR FAITH IN THEIR ASTRAL POWER.
ALSO, THE DEEPER THE MUTUAL TRUST GROWS, THE MORE POWER THEY ARE LIKELY TO LEND YOU.
AND IF YOU USE THIS POWER, DO NOT FORGET TO APPRECIATE THE ELEMENTALS! IN THE END, THE POWER OF THE FETISHES DEPENDS ON *THEM*, NOT YOU.
I HOPE WE CAN ALL WORK WELL TOGETHER.
I EXPECT THE VERY BEST FROM YOU, MY ELITE SOLDIERS!
YEAHHH!! LET'S DO THIS, FIRE THINGS!!
FINALLY, I HAVE THIS FOR GUTS...
*STAGGER
ヨロ
*STAGGER
ヨロ

I DON'T NEED IT.
BUT WHY NOOOT? WHAT A WASTE. JUST TAKE IT.
......
HOW UN-GRATEFUL!
NO... I'M FINE.
I WANT TO TAKE INTO BATTLE WHAT MY HAND KNOWS BEST.
GCHAK

THE SUN'S COMING UP. LET'S GET MOVING.
HEY, I'LL HANG ON TO IT.
WHAT ABOUT MIIINE? WHERE SUPER ZAKKURIMARU ?
HEYYY I SAY HEYYY!
H-HEY...
STOP ...!
*VMM
*VMM
......
S-SCREW THAT.
*FX: SHUDDER
*SHIMMER

WHAT...?
THIS IS A MYSTERIOUS PLACE, THOUGH. I HAVE NEVER SEEN SUCH A LARGE TREE BEFORE.
DESPITE IT BEING WINTER, IT FEELS WARM.
WHA...?
THE SCRATCHES AND BRUISES I HAD ARE GONE.
WHY, MINE TOO.
ALSO YOUR VINE BURNS.
YOUR PHYSICAL BODIES HAVE ADJUSTED TO THE FORMS OF YOUR ESSENTIAL ETHEREAL BODIES.
WHILE YOU ARE HERE, MINOR WOUNDS AND NEW WOUNDS GENERALLY HEAL.
THAT IS VERY CONVENIENT.

WE ARE IN...
...THE *ASTRAL WORLD* HERE.
!
THE *INTERSTICE* STRADDLES THE ASTRAL WORLD AND THE PHYSICAL WORLD.
DUE TO THE CURSED POWER OF THE BRAND, YOU EXIST PRIMARILY IN THE PHYSICAL DOMAIN OF THE INTERSTICE, WHERE THE ASTRAL WORLD IS PERCEIVABLE.
THIS FOREST IS A SLIGHTLY DEEPER ASTRAL DOMAIN OF THE INTERSTICE THAT ONE MAY YET ENTER PHYSICALLY.
TO USE AN ANALOGY, IT IS LIKE THE SHORELINE TO THE SEA.
BE THAT AS IT MAY, SO LONG AS THE MISTRESS OF THE MANSION DOES NOT INVITE APPROACH, REGULAR HUMANS CANNOT VISIT HERE. EVEN TO THE EYES OF THOSE WITH STRONG EXTRASENSORY PERCEPTION, AT BEST IT SHOULD APPEAR TO BE A MIRAGE.
BUT YOU WHO ARE IN THE SAME LAYER REACHED IT WITHOUT ANY PROBLEM...
THEN, THIS IS...
...THE *AFTERLIFE,* YOU MEAN? WE HAD A NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING IT.
IN THE PHYSICAL WORLD THIS TREE ROTTED ABOUT TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO...
...BUT WHILE IT LIVED IT WAS THE FOCUS OF WORSHIP FOR ALL ARBOREAL ANIMISTS IN THIS REGION.
THE STRONGER THE *POWER OF EXISTENCE* IS IN THE PHYSICAL WORLD...
...THE LONGER AND MORE SPLENDID ITS SHAPE WILL BE FIXED IN THE ASTRAL WORLD.
OCCASIONALLY IT TAKES ON A MONSTROUS FORM, THOUGH.
THAT EXPLAINS ALL THE FLOWERS.

THE MAJORITY OF MAGIC USERS HAVE ESTABLISHED THEIR RESIDENCES IN THIS LAYER OF THE INTERSTICE. THE LIMITATIONS OF THE MATERIAL WORLD ARE LONG FIXED IN A WEAKENED STATE HERE...
*BLAH
*FWAH
*BLAH
SHE NEVER SHUTS UP.
SO, CONTROLLING MATTER WITH THE POWER OF OUR MINDS BECOMES EASY.
*FX: WHISPER
IF YOU BECOME A GREAT MAGICIAN, YOU CAN EVEN FLY IN THE SKY.
Y'MEAN LIKE THIS?
FOR REAL? SOUNDS FISHY.
I AM SURE THAT IS THE REASON YOU ALL ARE LUCKY ENOUGH TO STILL BE ALIVE.
OR LIKE THIS?
YOU'LL PAY FOR THAT, WITCH APPRENTICE.
THERE'S THOSE SPARKLES AGAIN.
AH!
THE ELEMENTALS ARE SEEING YOU OFF.
OH, OKAY!
MISTRESS, COULD NOT CASCA AT LEAST STAY HERE IN YOUR KEEPING?
*FX: SPIN SPIN SPIN
くる くる くる
わーい
*WHEEE
I APPRECIATE YOUR IDEA, BUT NOT ONCE HAS ANY GOOD COME OF LEAVIN' HER BEHIND.
BUT ...
I KNOW THIS PLACE IS SAFE, BUT YOU CAN'T BE CERTAIN ABOUT ANYTHING.

IN THAT CASE...
...I WANT HER SOMEWHERE IN REACH OF MY SWORD.
......
THAT'S THE PATH YOU'VE CHOSEN.
YES.
I SUPPOSE THAT WILL ALSO BE YOUR PROTECTION FROM HELLFIRE.
......
ARE YOU PREPARED TOO, YOUNG LADY?
I... *I AM!*
I-I CANNOT BE VERY USEFUL...
NO... RATHER, I MIGHT GET IN THE WAY, BUT...
...

YOU CAN PROTECT CASCA.
*GCHAK
ガチャ
A... ALL RIGHT!
WHAT A TOTAL NUISANCE.
*SIGH
フゥ
IT'D BE SO MUCH EASIER BY MYSELF.
C'MON! LET'S HIT THE ROAD! WE'LL KICK THOSE MONKEYS AROUND!
ビッ ビッ!
風神
ESPECIALLY HIM...
W...
WELL, I SHALL RETURN.
MAY THE BLESSING OF THE SPIRITS BE UPON YOU ALL.
LEAVE IT TO ME.

*FX: VIP VIP *banner: WIND GOD

......
ギィ
YOU WERE HERE, THEN.
YOU SHOULD HAVE SAID SOMETHING.
REALLY ...
WHAT BOLD CHILDREN.
A TOUCH OF UNCERTAINTY, THOUGH...
ARE YOU SATISFIED NOW?
STILL, THOUGH, WHAT STROKE OF FORTUNE...
...BROUGHT YOU TO ASK A FAVOR OF ME?
IS IT FOR SOMEONE'S SAKE...?
PERHAPS PITY FOR A FELLOW SUFFERER?
OR...
...ARE YOU JUST USING HIM...?

*FX: GREE

OLD FRIEND.
I WANT TO BELIEVE THE HEART OF A MAN STILL REMAINS WITHIN YOU.
EVEN IF I DON'T DO IT MYSELF...
...THAT ONE MAY ALSO BE A FACTOR GUIDED BY THE LAW OF CAUSALITY...
YES...

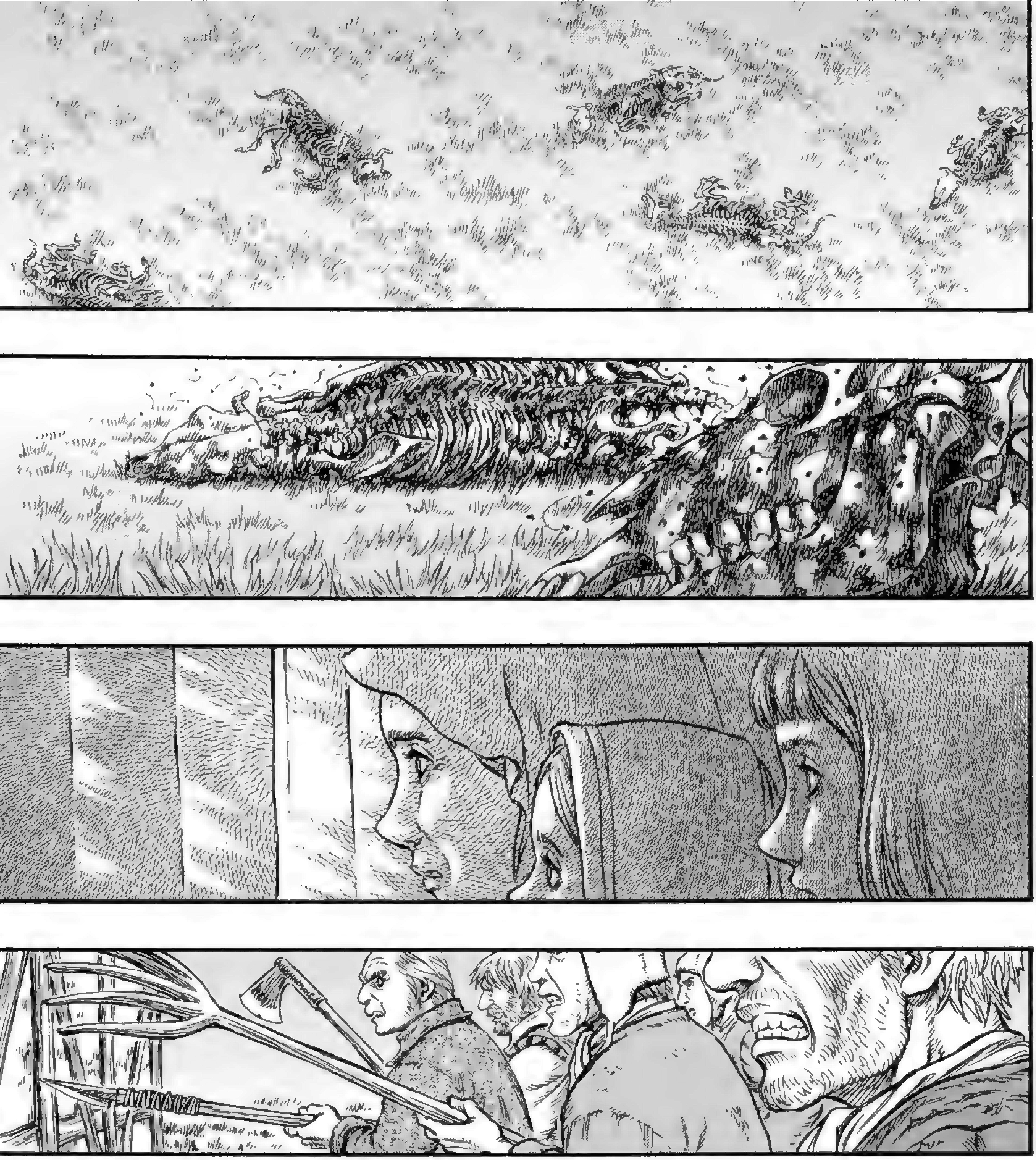
GOD BESTOWS UPON US FATE.
THE FATE CALLED *ENCOUNTERS.*

FALCON OF THE MILLENNIUM EMPIRE ARC
THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER

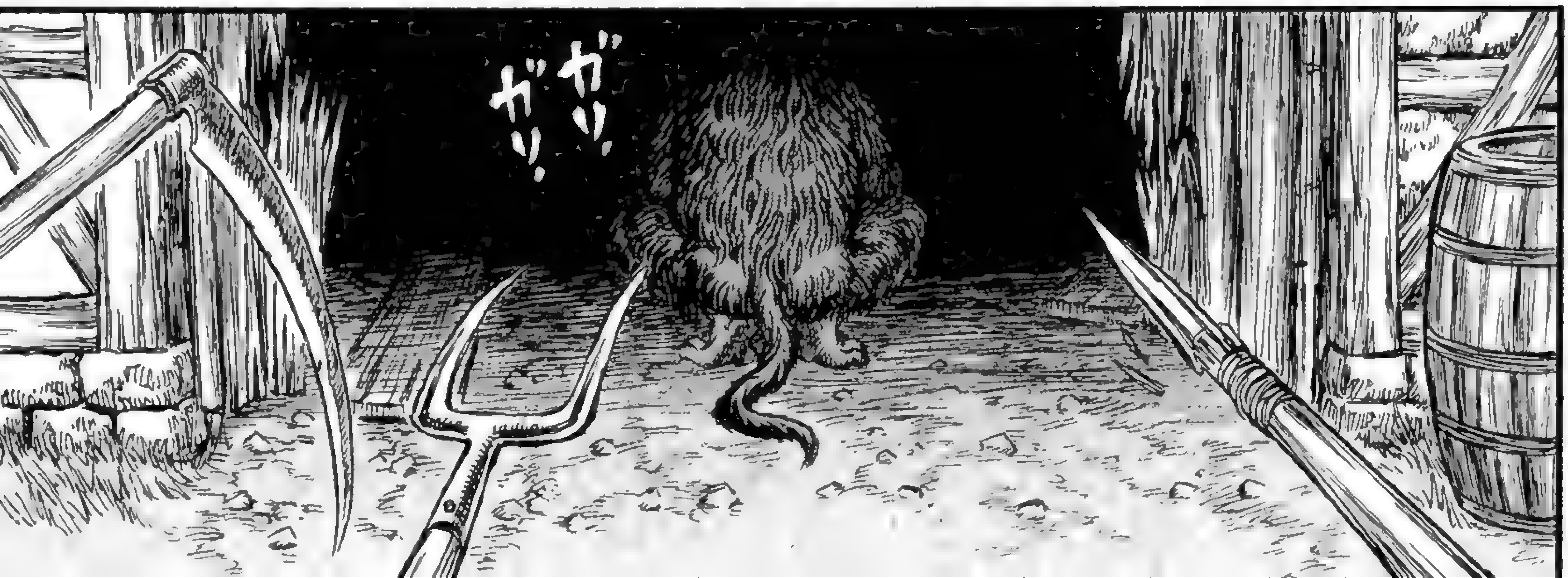
ENOCH VILLAGE

イーノック村

BERSERK



*FX: KRNCH KRNCH



TED... TEEED!!
HE CAN'T BE SAVED NOW!!
NO, HANNAH, STAY AWAY!!
*SHHRIP
AGGHHHH!!
GET AWAY FROM HIM!!
GET AWAY ...!!
HA...
HANNAH ...
*TAGK
*TOK
*AGGHH
*SNATCH
...!!
HANNAH ...!!

*SHRRAK
*THUD
AGH!
*LEAP
*ZHA
IGH...
ハァァァ
*FX: HAAAH

*SHRRRIP
*SHRRRIP
NOOOOOO!!
GODDAMMIT!
GET AWAY FROM MY SISTERRR!
FOOL, YOU'LL BE KILLED ...!!
*FX: SHNK SHNK
*FX: HAFF HAFF
HORACE...
...!!

ザクッ
*CHNK
ギャワッ
*GYAWW
H-HE GOT IT...!!
COME ON NOW, HANNAH!!
UGH ...

*GONNNG
ゴ"
*GONNNG
ゴ"
*GONNNG
ゴ"
*GONNNG
ゴ

ooo
ooo
DAMN IT ALL.
EVERY-ONE!
!
MORGAN!!
OLD MAN MORGAN, YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!!
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.
WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?!
!
WELL, WE WERE ATTACKED BY TROLLS IN THE FOREST...
OH.
......
......
WHOSE COFFINS?
TED'S AND HORACE'S.
HANNAH GOT CARRIED OFF.
TED WAS ATTACKED WHILE STANDING GUARD AT THE LIVESTOCK BARN, AND WHEN SHE RUSHED OVER TO SAVE HIM, HANNAH WAS RAPED!
HORACE STABBED ONE WITH A PITCHFORK TRYING TO RESCUE HIS SISTER, AND THEN A WHOLE PACK GANGED UP AND BEAT HIM TO DEATH!!

ALL THAT WAS LEFT OF TED AND HORACE WAS *MINCEMEAT...!!*
WHAT CURSED TIMING. THEY WERE ONLY MARRIED FOUR DAYS AGO.
AND TED AND HORACE WERE BEST FRIENDS.
THE THREE WERE BROUGHT UP LIKE SIBLINGS AND ALL.
DAMN IT!! THEY DO SUCH VICIOUS THINGS...!!
THEY DON'T THINK OF THIS VILLAGE AS MORE THAN A *FOOD TROUGH!!*
I REALIZE IT'S A TIME OF MOURNING, EVERYONE, BUT...
SO?
WHAT WAS THE END RESULT, MORGAN?
CHIEF.
THOSE PEOPLE THERE...
...ARE THEM.

WASSAP.
おお… *OHH.
YOU ALL ARE...
THEY'RE FROM THE SPIRIT TREE FOREST...?
HEY, ONE'S A CHILD!
WHO'S THAT BIG MAN?
A SERVANT ...?
WE SEEM TO BE ON EXHIBIT.
LIFE OF THE PARTY.
!
L- LOOK AT THAT...!
ELVES ...
THEY'RE ELVES!!

IF SHE HAS THINGS QUEER AS ELVES WITH THEM...
...SHE MUST REALLY BE A WITCH!
THEM'S SOME RUDE FOLKS.
I'LL SAY! I DON'T WANT 'EM GROUPIN' ME WITH YOU!
SO ONE OF THOSE TWO MUST BE...
UH...
NOOOO!
DON'T SAY MEAN THINGS, EVIL AIR-HEAD.
IT'S IVALERA!
NO... PEOPLE!
THE HONORABLE WITCH IS RIGHT HERE...
...
WHAT'RE YOU HIDIN' FOR?
H... HELLO.
*BOW
ペコ…
NO NEED TO BE SO FORMAL.

SAY WHAT...?
IMPOSSIBLE...
A CHILD LIKE HER ...?!
THIS IS A JOKE, RIGHT ?!
MORGAN, WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS JEST?!
WELL, NO.
IT'S NO JOKE...
OH, MAN.
WELL...
CAN'T BLAME 'EM.
......
WHY NOT SHOW 'EM A SHOT OF MAGIC? TO HELP 'EM GET IT?
I CAN DO *NO* SUCH THING!
IT'S ABSURD, USING MAGIC THAT WAY...
...TO SATISFY ONE'S OWN VANITY.
I TOLD YOU AS MUCH, VILLAGE CHIEF.

FATHER.
IT'S A PRIEST.
THIS HAS BECOME COMPLICATED.
....
RELYING ON DUBIOUS SUPERSTITIONS LIKE WITCHES WILL NOT RESOLVE OUR PRESENT STATE OF AFFAIRS ONE BIT.
WILL IT NOT RATHER RESULT IN THE NEEDLESS ADDITION OF VICTIMS?
EVEN SO, MORGAN, MAKING A CHILD LIKE HER WEAR A WITCH'S GETUP...
IT IS LIKELY A DEED BORN OF A SENSE OF GUILT AT BEING THE ONLY ONE TO SURVIVE, BUT ALSO EXCESSIVELY THOUGHTLESS...
N-NO...!
B-BUT, FATHER.
THEY HAVE *ELVES* ALONG WITH THEM.
DO YOU THINK SUCH *THINGS*...
...HAVE THE POWER TO DEFEAT THOSE EVIL BEASTS?
AH, WELL...
PERHAPS NOT...
CREEP-OOO.

WITH THAT GETUP, ARE YOU PEOPLE TRAVELING PERFORMERS? DID MORGAN APPEAL TO YOU ON YOUR JOURNEY?
NO WONDER... PRETENDING TO BE WITCHES AND PRACTICING DUBIOUS DIVINATION MUST BE YOUR FORTE.
PER-FORMERS...
MAKES SENSE ...
WATCH FIRST, PAY LATER.
JUGGLE NUT!
YO.
HO.
YOU'RE NOT HELPIN' HERE.
I KNEW IT. LITTLE GIRLS DON'T LOOK LIKE THE REAL THING.
HOWEVER, IT WOULD NOT BE WISE TO STICK YOUR NOSES INTO THIS. I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE ON A PLEASURE JAUNT OR WHAT...
...BUT THOSE EVIL BEASTS ARE NOT THE SORT OF THING YOU CAN DEAL WITH. LEAVE THIS PLACE AT ONCE.
B-BUT, FATHER.
AFTER A CLOSE LOOK, DOESN'T THAT BIG MAN LOOK QUITE POWERFUL? WE ARE SHORT HANDED RIGHT NOW, SO TO TURN THEM AWAY WOULD...
NONE OF THAT!
THIS IS A TEST GIVEN BY GOD TO THIS VILLAGE.
ALL WE CAN DO IS PRAY AND ENDURE.

HEYYY, LET'S JUST GO HOME 'N' LEAVE 'EM BE.
WHOA, WHOA, WE'RE HERE TO HELP AND THEY TURN US AWAY?
IT'S JUST GETTIN' STUPID NOW.
AT LEAST ENJOY THIS PERFORMANCE.
I'LL SPIN EXTRA FOR YOU.
I-I WILL HANDLE THIS...
LADY FARNESE?
WHEN'LL YOU QUIT?
IT'S MY PERFORMER'S BLOOD!
YOU MUSTN'T! WE SECULARIZED OURSELVES OF OUR OWN ACCORD! IF WE ARE NOT CAREFUL, A SEARCH WARRANT MAY BE ISSUED BY THE HOLY SEE REGARDING THE ALBION INCIDENT!
YES, BUT...
HE MIGHT UNDERSTAND IF I DROP THE NAME OF THE COURT SUPREME.
GIRL...
EVEN IF THAT GETUP IS FOR ACTING, YOU MUSTN'T ASSUME SUCH AN APPEARANCE.
WERE THIS THE HOLY CITY, YOU WOULD HARDLY ESCAPE BEING BURNED AT THE STAKE.
ギク
PERFORMER'S BLOOD FLOWS FREELY...

*FX: FLINCH

WITCHES AND THE LIKE...
...ARE NOTHING BUT...
...SYMBOLS OF APOSTASY AND WICKEDNESS.
ガタン
*CLAKANG
!
ガラ. ガラ.
*TNK TNK
GYOOOO
OOO

HEY! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!
CURSED...!
OUT OF THERE, NOW!
!
WHAT'S WITH THIS GIRL?
SHE'S INSANE...?
*FX: OOOO
カチャ
SORRY.
*FX: GCHAK
ヒョイ
*HOIST
AGYAU!
バタ
*FLAIL
バタ
*FLAIL

*TNNG
パッ
*GLOMP
ガシッ
*DMP DMP DMP
ダダダッ
*OOO...
うう…
SORRY 'BOUT THAT.
YOU SEE HOW IT IS.
LONG JOURNEYS WITH THE SICK AND KIDS'RE REALLY TIRING.
COULD WE HAVE A PLACE TO STAY FOR THE NIGHT?
NAY!
THIS IS NO TIME FOR--
SHE'S A PILGRIM, PRAYING TO REGAIN HER HEALTH.

IT'S CUSTOMARY THAT THE CHURCH ...
...SHOW CHARITY TO PILGRIMS.
....
I'M NOT RESPONSIBLE...
...FOR WHAT HAPPENS.
*FLUTTA
WE OWE YOU ONE.
L...
LOOK AT *THAT* SWORD !!
A- AMAZIN' ...!!
IS IT REAL ...?
THAT LEFT ARM...
*HMPH

FATHER?
PREPARE LODGING FOR THEM, CHIEF.
THAT WAS GOOD THINKING.
ANYWAY, I'M HUNGRY.
ME TOO.
GEEZ, YOU TWO...
LET'S GO, IT'S BAD TO HOLD UP A FUNERAL.
......
GO AND WITNESS WITH YOUR OWN EYES...
...THE SIGNIFICANT NATURE THIS ENCOUNTER WILL BEAR FOR YOU.

FALCON OF THE MILLENNIUM EMPIRE ARC
THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER

AMBITION AND REFLECTION
野望と追憶

BERSERK

EVERYONE ...
...PLEASE TIE THIS AROUND YOUR FINGER.
HAIR? YOURS?
WHY THIS?
SO THAT WE CAN USE THOUGHT TRANSFERENCE.
THAT'S TELE-PATHY.
THOUGHT TRANSFERENCE? SOUNDS FAKE TO ME.
......
THERE YOU ARE!
WHERE?

?
プッ
*PBBT
低能
ザル
*thought: FEEBLE-MINDED MONKEY
WHO'S A MONKEY, YOU DIRTY LITTLE ...?!
THIS MAKES USE OF A TECHNIQUE CALLED *CONTAGIOUS MAGIC,* IN WHICH A PART OF THE SUBJECT IS USED EACH TIME THE SPELL IS CAST.
モキ?
*MOOKEE?
LIKE CURSING SOMEONE WITH A NAIL OR HAIR?
TO A CERTAIN EXTENT, EVERY HUMAN IS CAPABLE OF DIRECTLY EXCHANGING THOUGHTS. JUST FOR THAT, IT IS NECESSARY TO CONNECT THEIR OD... THEIR SPIRITUAL MAGNETISM.
WITH THOSE HAIRS ATTACHED TO YOU, YOUR OD FIELDS ARE SUBCONSCIOUSLY ADHERED TO MINE.
FURTHER, FOR THOSE WHO LACK TRAINING IN THE CONCRETE VISUALIZATION OF IMAGES, THOUGHTS, BEFORE THEY ARE GIVEN FORM VIA LETTERS AND WORDS, ARE VAGUE AND INCONSTANT.
?
?
I CAN TELEPATHIZE SOMETIMES
UNTIL YOU ARE ACCUSTOMED, PLEASE SOUND OUT THE WORDS DISTINCTLY IN YOUR MIND. IF YOU MASTER THOUGHT TRANSFERENCE, THE COMMUNICATION OF INTENT FAR BEYOND THAT OF NORMAL CONVERSATION BECOMES POSSIBLE.

JUST WITH YOU? ANYONE ELSE?
THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE SO SOON.
AND SO...
*AHEM
コホン.
...IN REGARDS TO THIS TROLL SLAYING...
...I WANT EVERYONE TO ABIDE BY MY INSTRUCTIONS.
COME AGAIN?!
NATURALLY.
TH-THAT AIN'T FUNNY!! JUST 'CAUSE YOU CAN USE A LITTLE MAGIC, YOU'RE GONNA ACT LIKE OUR LEADER?!
WHO'S GONNA BE WRAPPED AROUND THE FINGER OF SOME LITTLE GOODY-GOODY LIKE YOU?!
IT MAKES THE MOST SENSE.
BEING THE MAGIC USER, I AM THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN GRASP THE ENTIRE PROGRESS OF THE BATTLE AND CONVEY IT TO EVERYONE.
GH!

WHEN IT COMES TO TROLLS, A WITCH IS A SPECIALIST...
SHE HAS A POINT.
...
WELL,
FINE BY ME. THE BRUTE SLAYIN' WAS HER JOB IN THE FIRST PLACE.
...
*FX: SALUTE!
SALUTE YOUR C.O.!
SUB-PRIVATE!
大佐
*COLONEL
*TAK
GODDAMN SONUVA BITCH!
DESERTION MEANS THE FIRIN' SQUAD, SUB-PRIVATE MONKICHI!!
*FX: DASH
*FX: WHAM
WHAT IS HIS PROBLEM?
HE WANTED SOME SAY IN THIS.
MY, MY...
...
*HO HO HO HO

*FX: SHNN
WHOOP?
ヨロ‥
*TOTTER
ドボン。
*SPLASH

DAMMIT. NO MATTER WHAT I DO, A ONE-HANDED SWORD GRIP THROWS ME OFF BALANCE.
GUTS AND THE OTHERS SURE GOT COAXED INTO IT BY THAT PISSHAT SHRIMP QUICK ENOUGH.
STILL, THAT WITCH APPRENTICE JUST JOINED US AND *SHE* GETS TO CALL THE SHOTS.
JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT IT WAS YOUR TURN TO PLAY SUPERIOR TO THIS LITTLE GIRL EVEN MORE HAYSEED THAN YOU, SUDDENLY YOU'RE TREATED LIKE A MONKEY. WHAT'S MORE, SHE STEALS ALL THE GLORY, AND YOU'RE STILL LEFT IN THE CELLAR... THAT MUST STING.
THOUGHT TRANSFERENCE?
QUIET, YOU!
NO COMMENTIN' ON PEOPLE'S THOUGHTS!
WHAT HARD WORK. SWORD PRACTICE, SON?
IT'S DANGEROUS TO BE ALONE, THOUGH.
!
OLD MAN.
WHAT'RE *YOU* DOIN', THEN?
HMMM.
I THOUGHT I'D GET SOME FISH FOR YOU ALL'S DINNER ...
BUT NO USE.
NEARLY ALL THE FISH IN THIS RIVER'VE BEEN CAUGHT.
WELL, POTATO SOUP WILL HAVE TO DO.
...
WANT SOME'A MINE?

*FX: SNAP

*FX: SALUTE

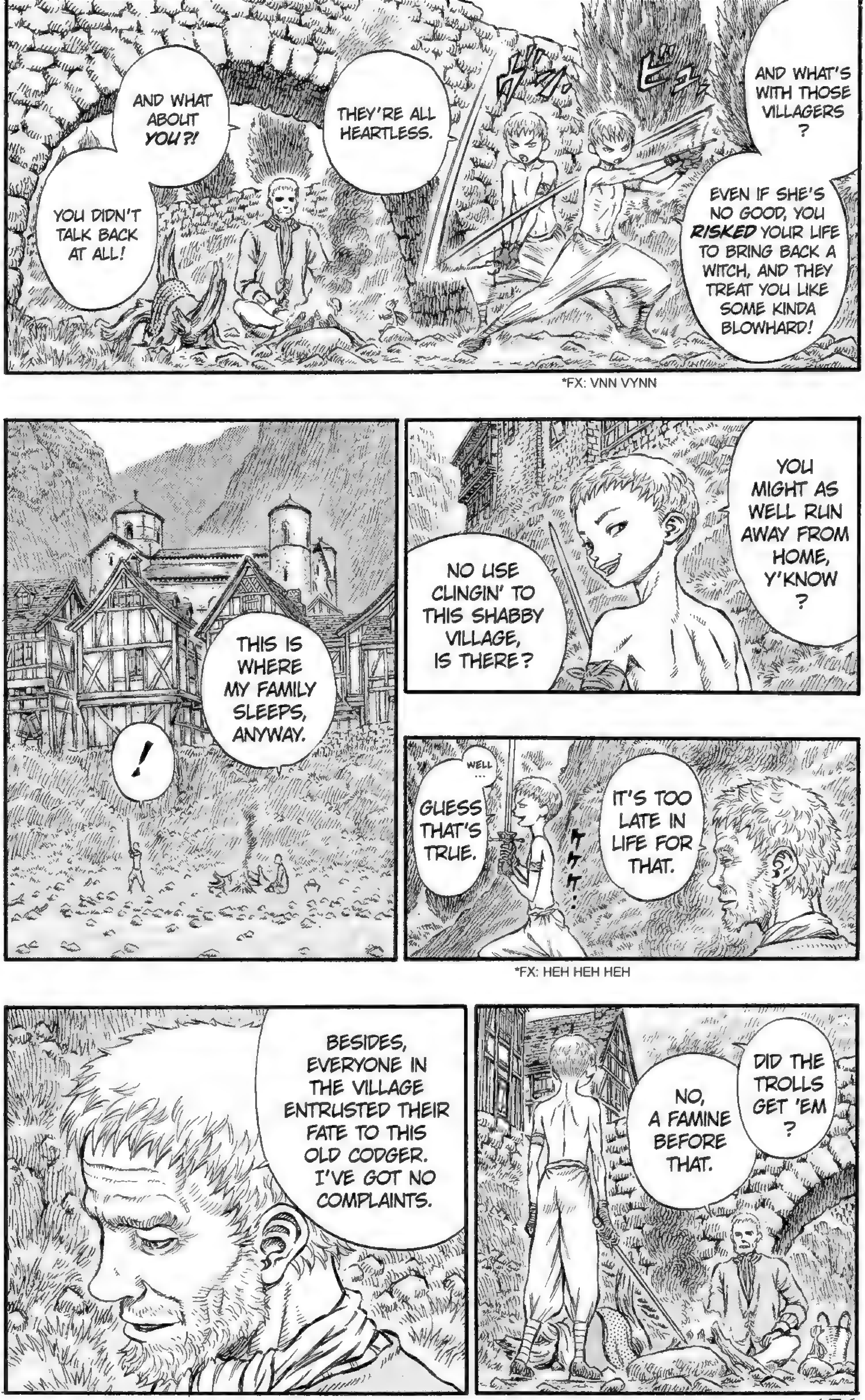
THIS SURE IS ONE SHABBY VILLAGE, THOUGH.
YOU CAN'T EVEN SEE THE SUN HALF THE DAY IN THIS RAVINE.
I BET YOU CAN'T GET MUCH OUT OF THE FIELDS EVEN WITHOUT THE TROLLS.
BEFORE THE NEW HIGHWAY WAS BUILT...
...BEFORE MY GRANDFATHER'S TIME, SEEMS THIS VILLAGE FLOURISHED AS A LODGING TOWN ON THE OLD HIGHWAY.
BUT NOW IT'S AS YOU SEE.
NEVERTHELESS, WE WON'T JUST LAY DOWN AND DIE, *EH*?
I HAVE HIGH HOPES FOR YOU ALL.
KEH!
NO PROBLEM. I'M A MILITARY MAN.
びしっ

WHY'RE YOU TRAVELING WITH THEM, SON?
ARE YOU A FOLLOWER OF THAT BLACK SWORDSMAN?
N... NO, I'M NOT!
I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF A KNIGHT-ERRANT JOURNEY!
HOHHH...
GOT A **CONTRACT** WITH GUTS THAT HE'LL TEACH ME THE SWORD!
THOUGH OFFICIALLY YOU'RE THE LOWEST DISCIPLE IN MY SCHOOL OF ELF DIMENSION STYLE.
A DIFFICULT, INCOMPETENT DISCIPLE, MIND YOU.
THAT SWORDSMAN'S A STRONG FELLOW.
SWINGING THAT GIGANTIC SWORD AROUND...
YOU THINK?!
HE AIN'T JUST STRONG! HE'S A **BEAST!**
COMPARED TO HIM, THOSE TROLLS'RE LIKE PYGMY MARMOSETS.
EVEN NOW I GET CHILLS DOWN MY SPINE WHEN I WATCH HIM FIGHT UNDER THE MOONLIGHT.
ACTUALLY, I CAN'T EVEN TELL **WHO'S** THE REAL BEAST.
HE'S A MONSTER THAT **EATS** MONSTERS.

*FX: SWP

*FX: VYNN

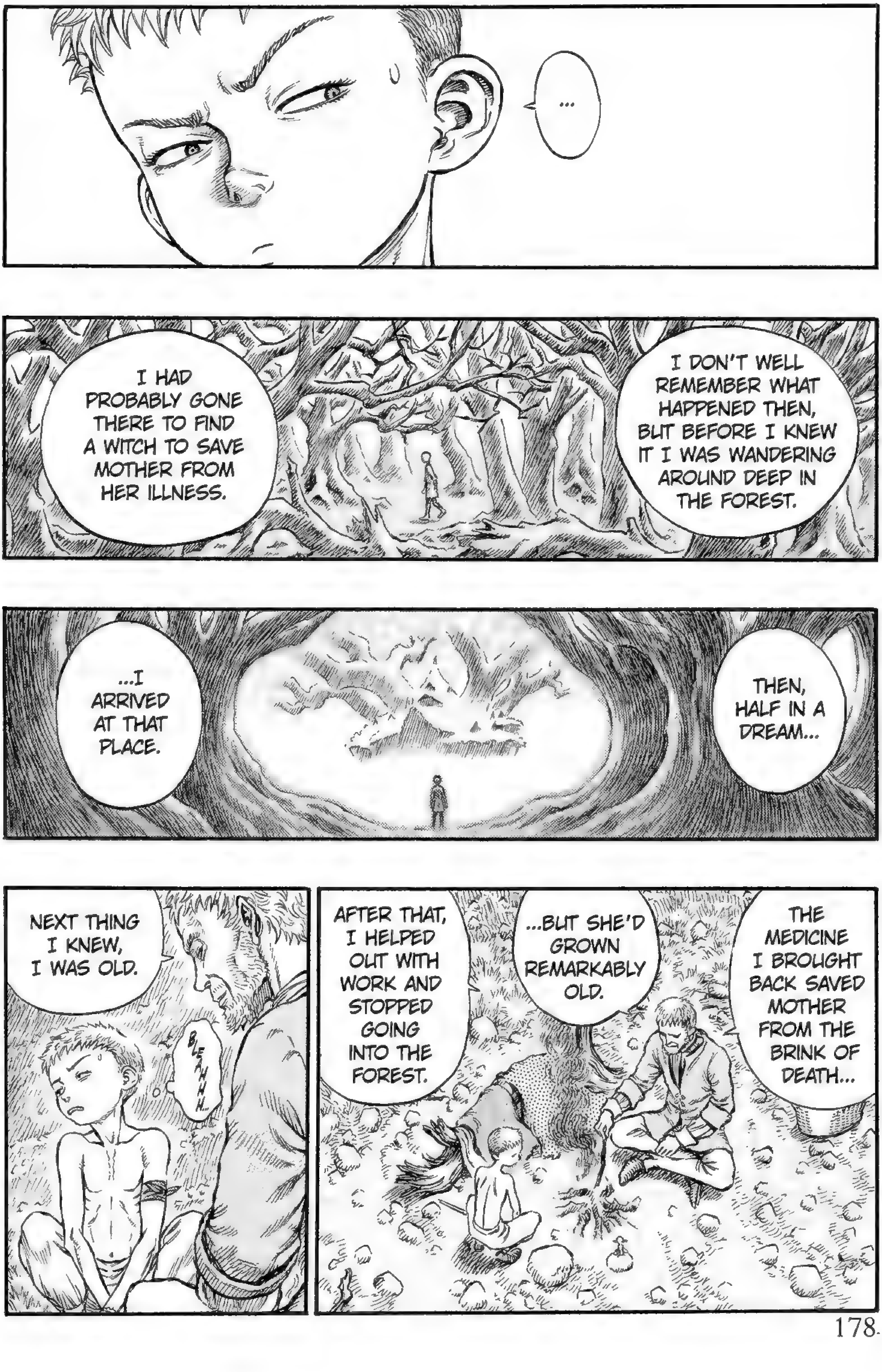
YOU SURE ADMIRE HIM.
...?
ADMIRE?
NAH, I DON'T LIKE THAT WORD.
I'M USIN' HIM!
......
WELL...
I GUESS...
*MUMBLE
...THAT'S WHERE MY SIGHTS ARE SET FOR NOW.
REALLY NOW...
AND PERHAPS FOR NOW I'M HIS MASTER, YOU'D SAY.
ALREADY DEEP INTO THE DARK SIDE, THIS YOUNG ONE IS.
YOU GOT FAMILY?
!
FEH!
WHO CARES ABOUT THAT?!
YOU'RE A STRANGER. WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?!
*FX: TMP TMP
WELL, YES, BUT...
...AREN'T YOUR PARENTS WORRIED ABOUT YOU?
KEH!
RUN-AWAY?
WHAT ABOUT YOU THEN, HUH?
WHAT'S YOUR FAMILY THINKIN', LETTIN' YOU RUN AROUND LOOKIN' FOR A WITCH AT YOUR AGE?!


AND WHAT'S WITH THOSE VILLAGERS?
EVEN IF SHE'S NO GOOD, YOU **RISKED** YOUR LIFE TO BRING BACK A WITCH, AND THEY TREAT YOU LIKE SOME KINDA BLOWHARD!
THEY'RE ALL HEARTLESS.
AND WHAT ABOUT ***YOU?!***
YOU DIDN'T TALK BACK AT ALL!
YOU MIGHT AS WELL RUN AWAY FROM HOME, Y'KNOW?
NO USE CLINGIN' TO THIS SHABBY VILLAGE, IS THERE?
IT'S TOO LATE IN LIFE FOR THAT.
WELL...
GUESS THAT'S TRUE.
THIS IS WHERE MY FAMILY SLEEPS, ANYWAY.
!
DID THE TROLLS GET 'EM?
NO, A FAMINE BEFORE THAT.
BESIDES, EVERYONE IN THE VILLAGE ENTRUSTED THEIR FATE TO THIS OLD CODGER. I'VE GOT NO COMPLAINTS.

*FX: VNN VYNN

*FX: HEH HEH HEH

RATHER, I'M THANKFUL. I MEAN, HERE I AM THIS AGE AND MY DREAM WAS FULFILLED.
DREAM?
I GOT TO SEE HER...
...ONE MORE TIME BEFORE I DIE.
....
IT'S PROBABLY TRUE FOR ALL BOYS, BUT WHEN I WAS YOUNG I LOVED TO DAYDREAM.
LOOKING FOR WITCHES, CATCHING ELVES... I'D DITCH MY CHORES AND RUN AROUND THE MOUNTAINS AND FORESTS AT THE DROP OF A HAT.
LIKE YOU SAID, I IMAGINED THAT SOME DAY I'D SNEAK AWAY FROM THIS TINY VILLAGE...
...AND SET SAIL ALONE ON THE HIGH SEA FROM VRITANNIS...
...UNTIL...
...MY MOTHER FELL ILL.


...
I DON'T WELL REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED THEN, BUT BEFORE I KNEW IT I WAS WANDERING AROUND DEEP IN THE FOREST.
I HAD PROBABLY GONE THERE TO FIND A WITCH TO SAVE MOTHER FROM HER ILLNESS.
THEN, HALF IN A DREAM...
...I ARRIVED AT THAT PLACE.
THE MEDICINE I BROUGHT BACK SAVED MOTHER FROM THE BRINK OF DEATH...
...BUT SHE'D GROWN REMARKABLY OLD.
AFTER THAT, I HELPED OUT WITH WORK AND STOPPED GOING INTO THE FOREST.
BLEAHHH...
NEXT THING I KNEW, I WAS OLD.

A LONG TIME'S PASSED, AND AFTER SO MUCH NORMAL LIVING, MY MEMORY'S GROWN VAGUE.
BUT IT ALWAYS STAYED STUCK IN MY HEART.
THE ONE ADVENTURE I HAD.
WHETHER OR NOT IT REALLY HAPPENED...
SHE WAITED FOR ME, THOUGH.
DEEP INSIDE THAT FOREST...
UNCHANGED, AS SHE USED TO BE...
THAT ALONE WAS ENOUGH FOR ME.
*FX: LUNGE
RAHHH!!
ENOUGH WITH THE CRAPPY STORY!!
DON'T TALK ABOUT THE GOOD OL' DEPRESSIN' DAYS!!
NOW'S A TIME FOR THE YOUNG!!
GOOD GRIEF, KIDS THESE DAYS.
*SHWS
*SHWS
YOU GREW ANCIENT IN THIS RUSTIC LITTLE VILLAGE HOLDIN' ON TO YOUR PRETTY LITTLE DREAM!!
DON'T LUMP YOURSELF WITH ME WHEN I'M CARRYIN' OUT MY GOALS!!

IF I GOTTA LISTEN TO ANY MORE OF YOUR STORIES, MY OWN AMBITION'S GONNA GROW MOLD!
SEE YA!
TEEN ANGST.
*BOLT
......
OH.
YOU WERE THERE.
THAT BOY...
HE SEEMS TO HAVE QUITE A HIGH OPINION OF YOU.
......

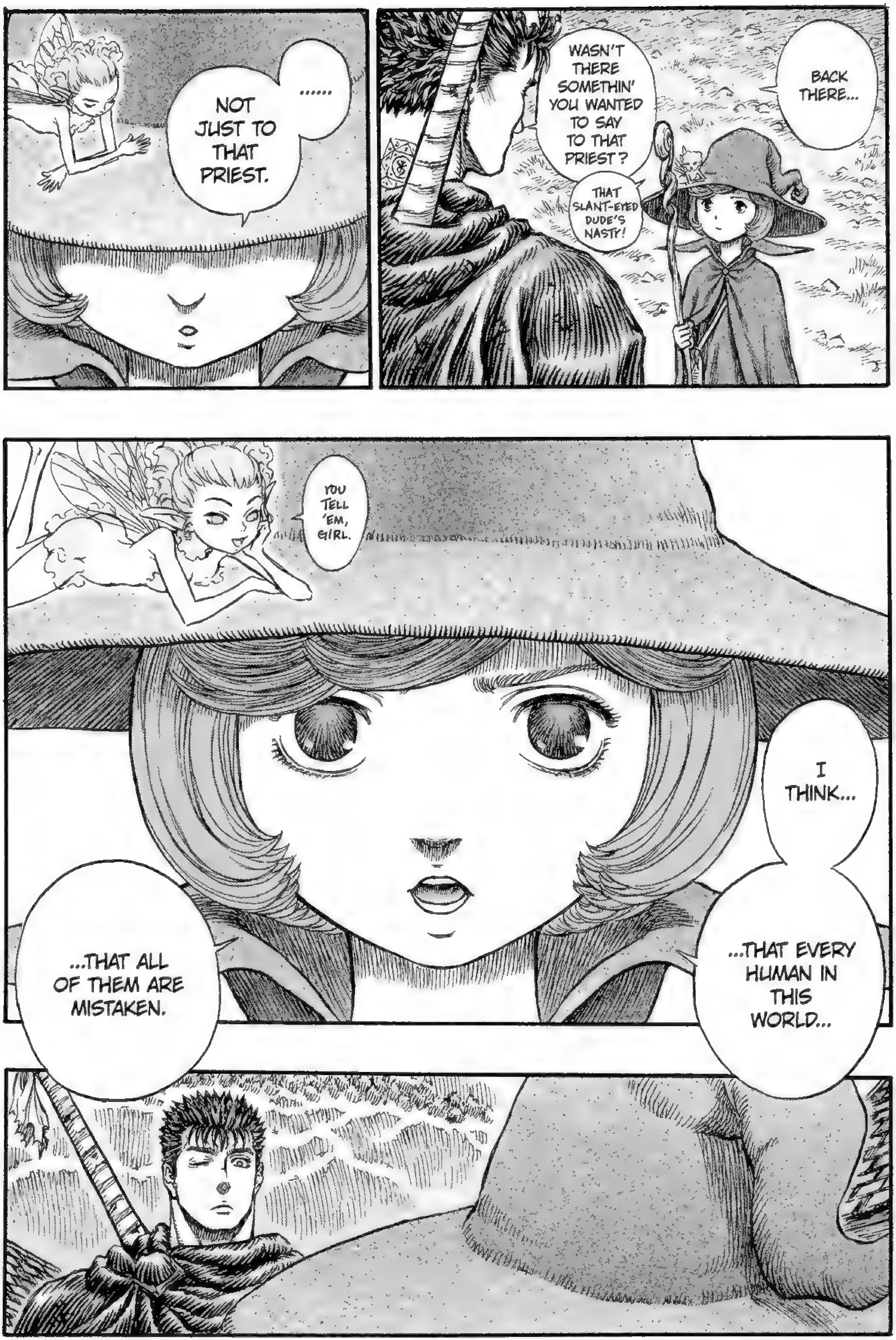
I DON'T LIKE THIS PLACE.

WHEN THE TROLLS ATTACK...
...IF THE VILLAGERS HOLD UP, IT WILL PROBABLY BE HERE.
SO YEAH...
THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE TO SET UP.
ANYWAY...
...I HAVE TO STAY LEVEL HEADED ABOUT THIS.
BUT...
...THIS PLACE WHERE ...
...THE CHURCH WAS BUILT...
YOW!
ボス
*BSMP

YOU TWO...
WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA, BRATS?! THAT'S DANGEROUS!
GO AWAY, WITCH!
THE PRIEST TOLD US...
...WITCHES AND TROLLS ARE THE SAME!
GO BACK TO THE FOREST!
HEY, SCHIERKE! BLOW 'EM AWAY WITH MAGIC!
バシ
*THP
ボス
*THAP
ガチャ
!
*FX: GCHAK

INSPECTING THE AREA?
....
NICE TIMING. THANKS!

THE WHOLE PLACE'S BEEN RANSACKED GOOD.
WELL ...
...NO WORSE THAN AN ARMY. THEY DIDN'T RAZE THE PLACE.
UH...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR BEING A QUICK WIT...
*FX: BOW
...AT THE CEMETERY.
HOW-EVER ...
SHE'S SO HONEST.
...I THINK LYING SO CASUALLY TO GET INTO...
...THE VILLAGE COULD COME BACK TO HAUNT US.
I'D SAY THE OLD LADY TRAINED HER WELL.


BACK THERE...
WASN'T THERE SOMETHIN' YOU WANTED TO SAY TO THAT PRIEST?
THAT SLANT-EYED DUDE'S NASTY!
......
NOT JUST TO THAT PRIEST.
YOU TELL 'EM, GIRL.
I THINK...
...THAT EVERY HUMAN IN THIS WORLD...
...THAT ALL OF THEM ARE MISTAKEN.

AMBITION AND REFLECTION: END

THIS HILL UPON WHICH THIS CHURCH IS BUILT...
IT USED TO BE...
...A SHRINE TO THE SPIRITS OF THIS LAND.
MANY OF THE HOLY SEE'S CHURCHES ARE THAT WAY...
LITERALLY CRUSHING...
...THE SACRED PLACES OF THE SPIRIT FAITH WHERE THEY WERE BUILT.
THE CURRENT DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SEE...
...IS NOTHING MORE THAN A TOOL BY WHICH TO DISPLAY ITS OWN POLITICAL POWER.
PEOPLE INVOKE THE NAME OF GOD WHEN GOING TO WAR.
THEY INVOKE THE NAME OF GOD WHEN SEEKING SALVATION.
OVER AND OVER, NEVER TIRING.

FALCON OF THE MILLENNIUM EMPIRE ARC
THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER

TROLL RAID

獣鬼襲来

トロール

WHEN THE KEY THAT SAVES THEM MAY BE HIDDEN...
...IN THE VERY ONES THEY ARE TRYING TO FORGET.
YOU MEAN YOU WITCHES ARE INCLUDED IN THAT?
LONG AGO, MY MISTRESS LIVED IN A HUMAN HABITATION IN THIS VICINITY.
SHE SAYS SHE WOULD GO AROUND TO THE NEEDY VILLAGES...
...CONVEYING THE SPIRITS' VOICES TO PEOPLE, TEACHING ABOUT EACH SEASON'S WEATHER, AND HEALING THEIR SICK.
WHO KNOWS HOW MANY PEOPLE WERE SAVED BY MY MISTRESS' MAGIC?
BUT WHEN THE HOLY SEE'S SPHERE OF INFLUENCE SPREAD THROUGH THIS REGION, THEY BEGAN BUILDING CHURCHES IN VILLAGES.
AS IF THEY HAD MADE A COMPLETE TURNAROUND, PEOPLE OSTRACIZED HER AND DROVE HER INTO THAT FOREST.

SINCE THEN MY MISTRESS HAS LIVED THERE...
...AS IF AVOIDING PEOPLE'S EYES AND HIDING.
AND NOW...
...ALMOST AS IF NOTHING HAPPENED...
I CANNOT FORGIVE THEM.
IF NOT FOR MY MISTRESS' COMMAND, WHO WOULD BOTHER WITH SUCH A PLACE?

THEN CALL IT QUITS.
IF YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE IT...
...THERE'S NO NEED TO ENDANGER YOURSELF FOR THAT NASTY BUNCH.
WHA...?
THAT OLD LADY'S GONNA DIE SOON, TOO.
ALL THE MORE REASON.
AH...

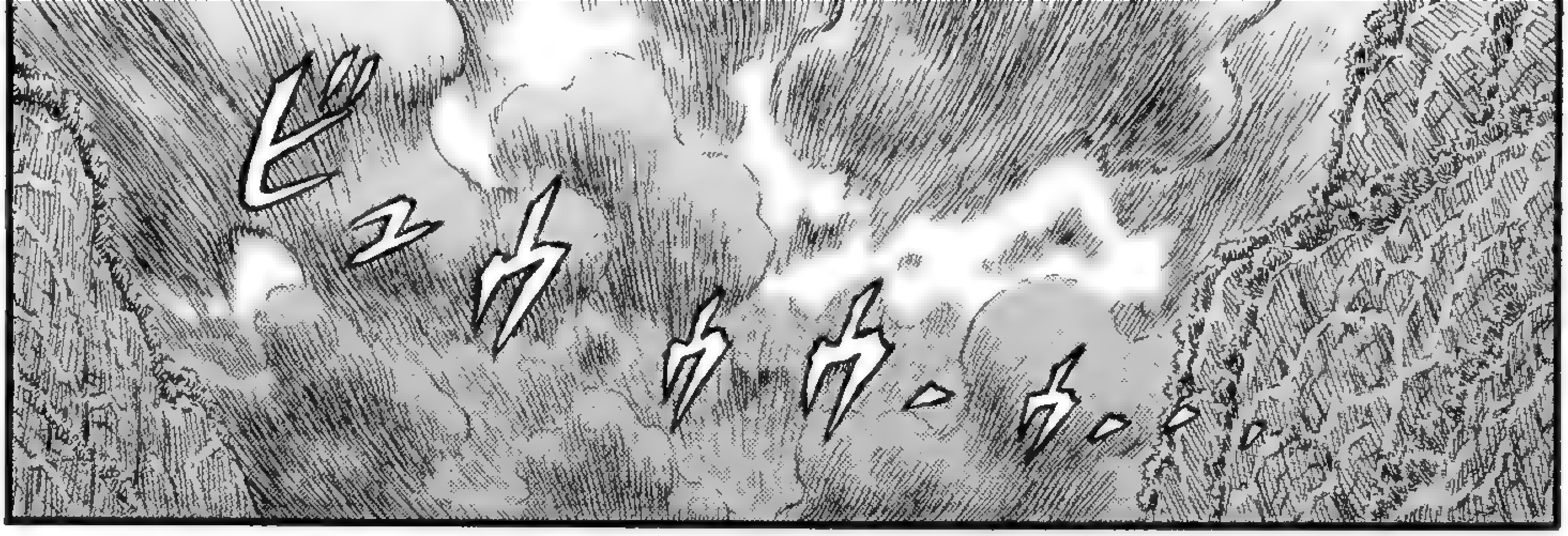
SOMEONE TELLS YOU TO DO SOMETHIN' YOU DON'T WANT TO DO, BUT YOU DO IT ANYWAY...
THAT'S A FOOL'S ERRAND, JUST KIDDIN' AROUND.
WHATTA YOU EXPECT? SHE REALLY IS A KID, Y'KNOW.
......!
WHAT AN ILL-MANNERED...
HEY, SCHIERKE.
...INSINCERE PERSON!!
I'M THE ONE WHO BROUGHT HIM ALONG UNWILLINGLY!
SOMEONE LIKE HIM...
SCHIERKE?
...COULD NOT BE MY FATE!! NEVER!!!

OO OO
HEY... BE STILL.
LADY FARNESE, IS IT NOT MEANINGLESS TO TIE THE HAIR ON CASCA WHEN SHE DOES NOT UNDERSTAND WORDS?
BUT SCHIERKE SAID TO DO SO...
THAT THOUGHT TRANSFERENCE SENDS IMAGES...
THOUGH I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND...
YAAA! YAAA!
DON'T MOVE.
......
TO BE HONEST, I THINK THIS TROLL SLAYING...
...NO, THIS WHOLE JOURNEY IN THE FIRST PLACE... EVEN NOW IS SOMETHING I REALLY SHOULD STOP...
*FX: LUNGE
VEE!
AH!
ENOUGH.
*FX: FLINCH
CASCA!!
ビクッ
*SMACK

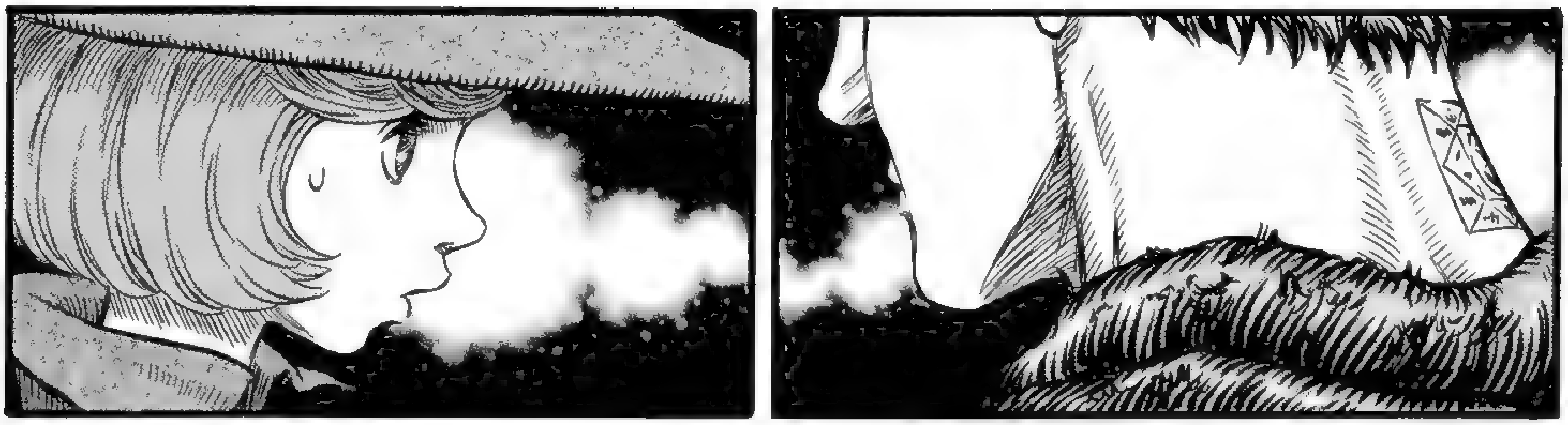
THERE.
NOW WE'RE DONE.
ooo
......
BUT SHE HAS CHANGED.
IT'S ONE THING I COULDN'T DO...
THAT SMILE ON HER FACE...
Now we match.
Au
PERHAPS IT'S FOR THE BEST.

SPIRITS OF WIND...
BLOWING ANYWHERE AND EVERYWHERE...
...FETTERED TO NOTHING...
IT IS IRONIC.
THEY ARE WHAT IS MOST ALIEN TO ME.

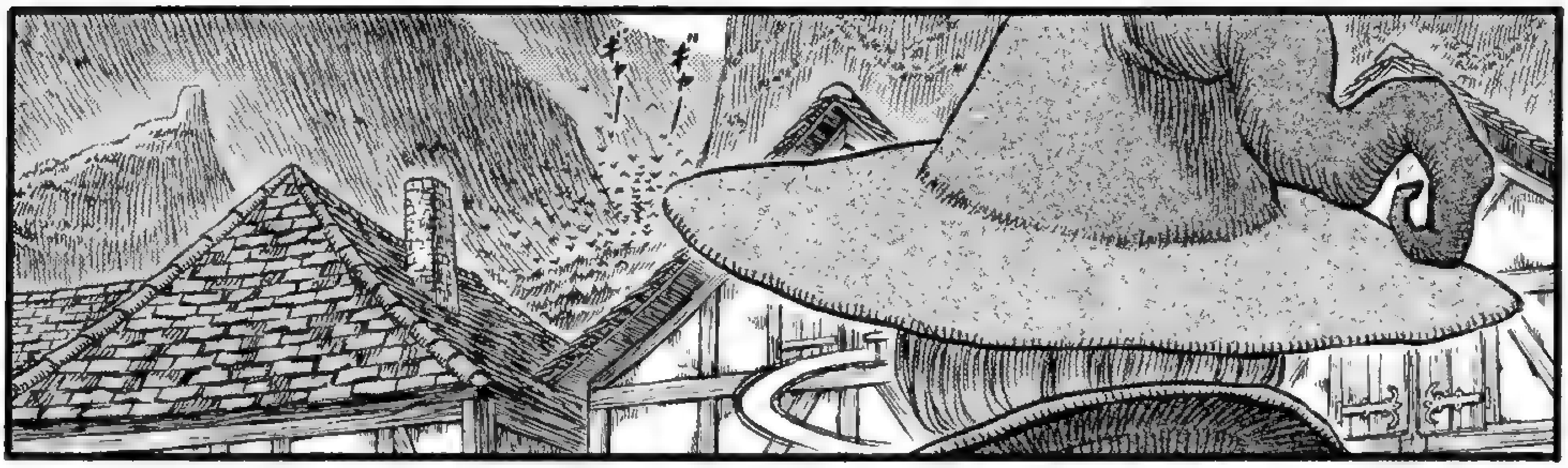
*FX: BTAM

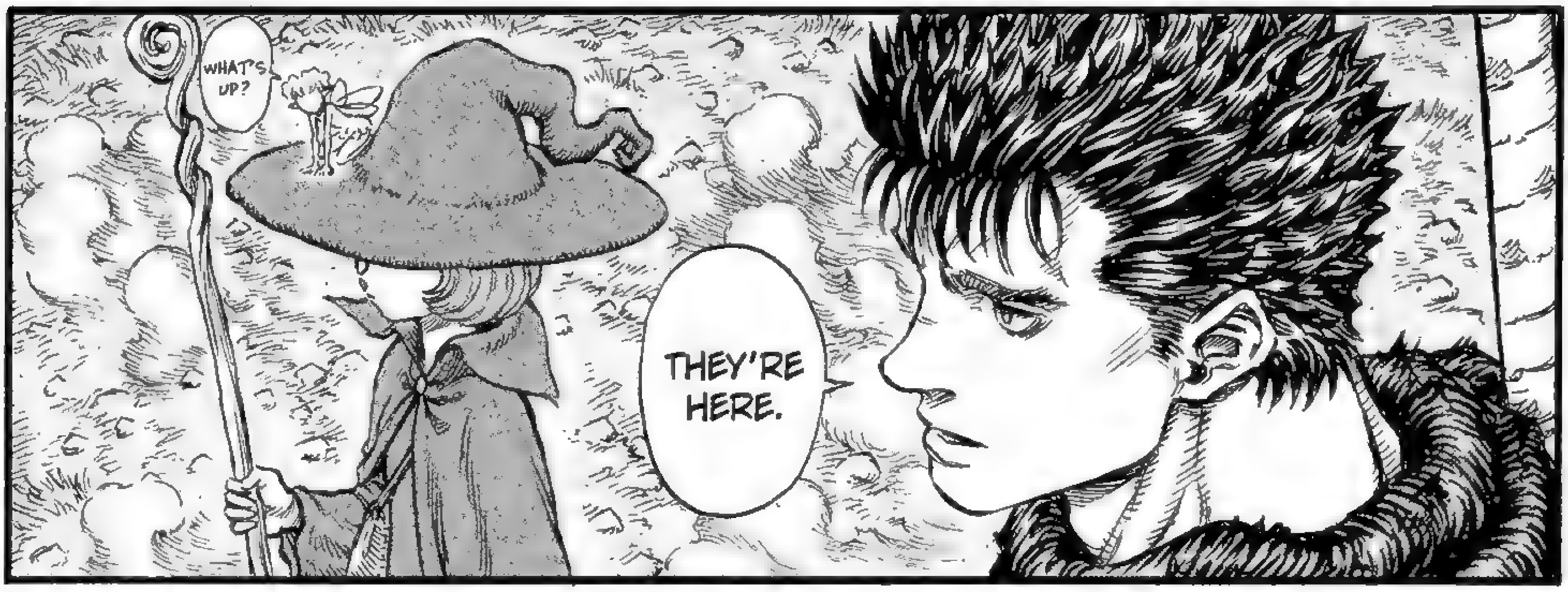


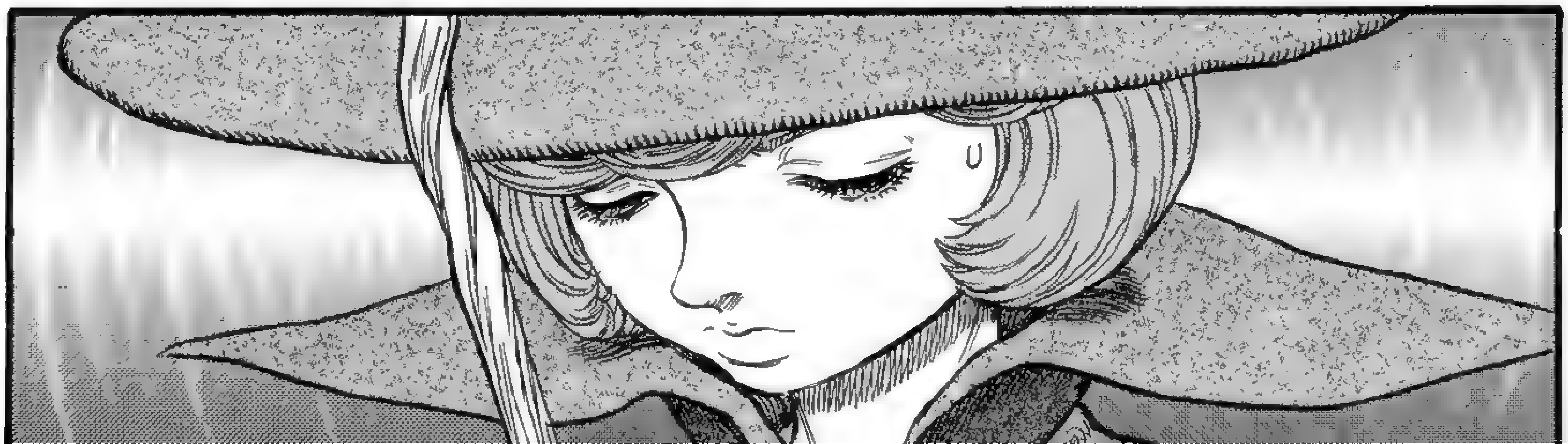
*FX: VYUUUUU



*FX: CAWWW CAWWW




WHAT'S UP?
THEY'RE HERE.



THE TROLLS!!
TO THE CHURCH!!
WAS THAT...?!
TELE-PATHY!
NO WAY!!
SERPICO!!
LADY FARNESE!!
H...
HEY!
...

*FX: CAWWW CAWWW

ザ *ZHA
ザ *ZHA
ザ *ZHA
ザ *ZHA
ザ *ZHA
ザ *ZHA
ザ *ZHA
ゲ *GEH
ゲ *GEH
ゲ *GEH
ゲ *GEH

TROLLS ...!!
WHAT'S WITH THESE NUMBERS ?!
A HUNDRED... NO, MORE OF THOSE DAMN THINGS!!
THEY'VE RUN OUT OF THINGS TO STEAL...
...SO THIS TIME THEY MEAN TO EAT EVERYTHING!!
H-HEY!! IF WE DON'T FLEE SOON, WE'RE IN BIG TROUBLE!!
FIRST THE HORN !!
OH, RIGHT ...!!
ボォー
*HRRRRRRN
ボォ
*HRRRRRRN
ボォ
*HRRRRRRN

EVERYONE TO THE CHURCH!!
IT'S A HUGE PACK OF TROLLS!!
HEY!
I GOT THAT THOUGHT TRANSFERENCE ALREADY! SURE IS HANDY!
CREEPY, THOUGH!
WE DID, TOO.
ANYWAY, LET US GO TO THE CHURCH. ALL THE VILLAGERS ARE GATHERING THERE.
*FX: DSSH
AIIEE

ゲフ
*GEF
ゴフ
*GOF
NOOOO!!
TROLLS!!
ヒュン
*HYNN
ソヨ
*WHSSS
グルル
*FX: GRRR
UH...?

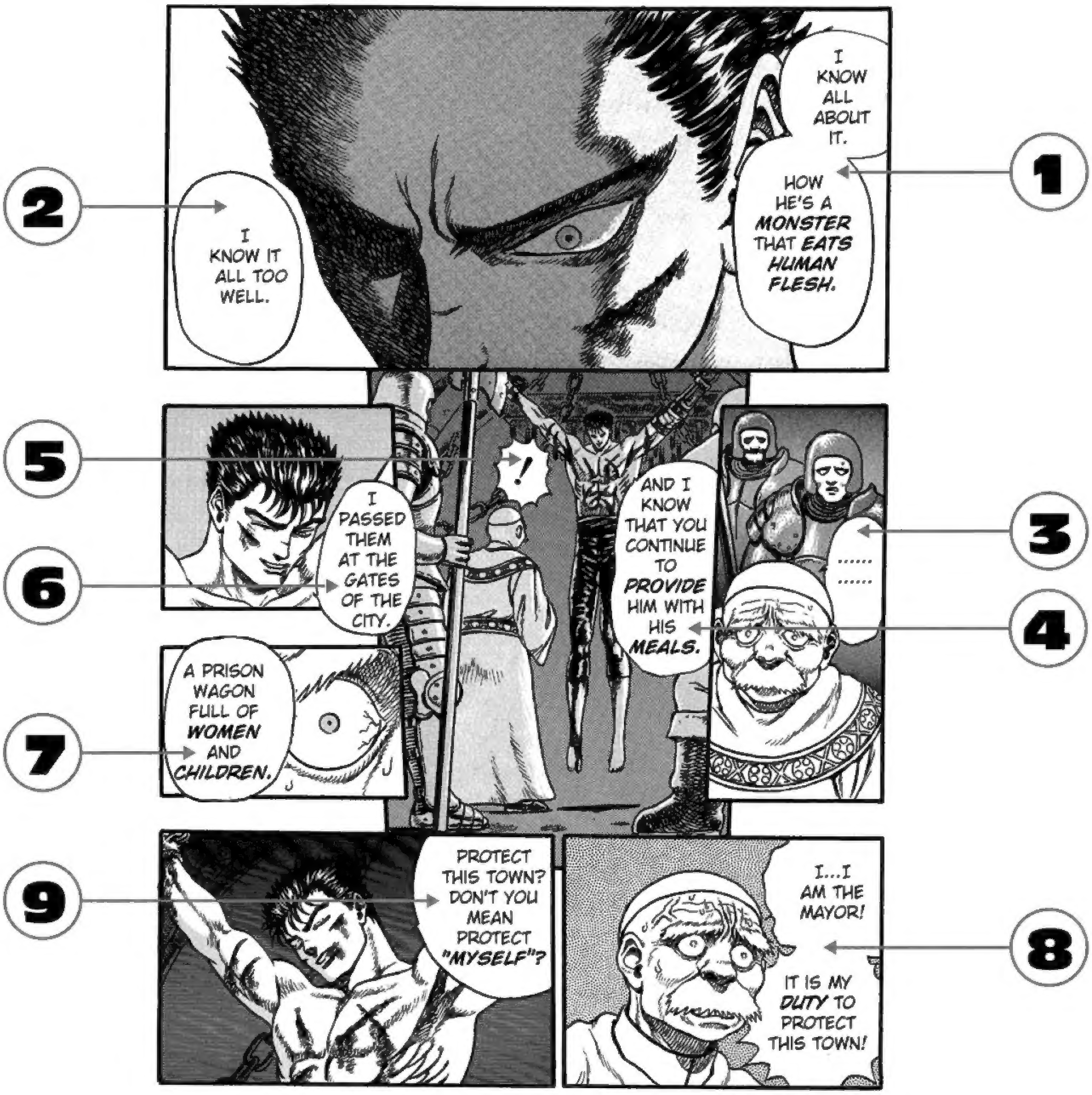
SERPICO !!
REMEMBER SCHIERKE'S WORDS !!
ELEMENTA !
BE PRECISE!
OH... THAT'S RIGHT.
UMMM...
IMAGE... IMAGE...
SPIRITS... SPIRITS...
YES...
IT FELT LIKE THIS.
WHOA! HERE THEY COME!
AGGHH!
IGHH!
*ZHA
*ZHA
*ZHA
*ZHA
*ZHA

I AM DEPENDING UPON YOU, SPIRITS !!
*HYRRRL
*SHOMM

STOP

This is the back of the book!

This manga collection is translated into English but oriented in right-to-left reading format at the creator's request, maintaining the artwork's visual orientation as originally published in Japan. If you've never read manga in this way before, take a look at the diagram below to give yourself an idea of how to go about it. Basically, you'll be starting in the upper right corner and will read each balloon and panel moving right to left. It may take some getting used to, but you should get the hang of it very quickly. Have fun!


1
I KNOW ALL ABOUT IT.
HOW HE'S A *MONSTER* THAT *EATS HUMAN FLESH.*
2
I KNOW IT ALL TOO WELL.
3
....
4
AND I KNOW THAT YOU CONTINUE TO *PROVIDE* HIM WITH HIS *MEALS.*
5
!
6
I PASSED THEM AT THE GATES OF THE CITY.
7
A PRISON WAGON FULL OF *WOMEN* AND *CHILDREN.*
8
I...I AM THE MAYOR!
IT IS MY *DUTY* TO PROTECT THIS TOWN!
9
PROTECT THIS TOWN? DON'T YOU MEAN PROTECT *"MYSELF"*?

COMICS & GRAPHIC NOVELS / MANGA / HORROR

BERSERK

KENTARO MIURA

24

ベルセルク

三浦建太郎

Desperate to find a sanctuary where his lover, Casca, will be safe from the demons drawn to her Brand of Sacrifice, Guts the Black Swordsman pushes his motley band of followers onward toward fairy Puck's homeland, Elfhelm. With new allies who make their home in a mystically guarded woodland paradise, Guts' goal seems within reach, but danger lurks in the shadows of even the most dazzling utopias, and even fairy witchery may not protect Guts and his companions from an army of marauding, murderous trolls!

Created by Kentaro Miura, *Berserk* is a runaway manga locomotive, a crashing colossus of teeth-rattling action, spine-chilling horror, and taboo-breaking humor that fires the boilers of its devoted devotees and just fires the rest. Ashes to ashes!

This collection is translated into English but oriented in right-to-left reading format, as originally published.

DARK HORSE MANGA

FOR READERS 18+
FOR MATURE READERS